THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

West Indies, Eng script historic Test victories

Thousands of miles away from each other, India and Australia, two indomitable Test sides at home, suffered shocking defeats on Sunday. West Indies pacer Shamar Joseph took seven wickets to help his team beat Australia by eight runs in Brisbane. England's Ollie Pope and Tom Hartley were the heroes in the second match as India lost by 28 runs after securing a 190-run lead | P13

Government of India
CBC 22201/13/0226/2324
Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee
Free treatment for every poor
55 crore people given assurance of treatment up to ₹5 lakh every year
Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat
Scan for more information

Nitish back in NDA, swears in as Bihar CM for the ninth time

BJP's Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha become deputy chief ministers

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

CURTAINS fell on the week-long political drama in Bihar on Sunday with Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar taking oath as chief minister for a record ninth term — this time with the support of his old ally, the BJP.

Soon after taking oath as the CM of the new NDA government, Nitish said: "I am back where I was earlier. I had gone with other another alliance for some time. But now I am back and will remain here forever."

Earlier in the day, Nitish met Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and submitted his resignation as the Mahagathbandhan chief minister. After that, he staked claim to form a new government with the support of the BJP and its allies. He claimed the support of 128 MLAs — 45 from JD(U), 78 from BJP, 4 from HAM and 1 Independent. Bihar has 243 assembly seats.

In the swearing-in ceremony held on Sunday evening, Nitish, Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Vijendra Prasad Yadav, Shravan Kumar from the JD-U; Samrat Choudhary, Vijay Kumar Sinha, and Prem Kumar from the BJP; Santosh Kumar Suman from HAM; and, Sumit Kumar Singh (Independent) took oath as cabinet ministers in the presence of BJP president J P Nadda and other dignitaries.

Nitish Kumar with Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar after the swearing-in ceremony | PTI

All of them had earlier served as ministers in the NDA government after the 2020 assembly election.

Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha will be the two deputy chief ministers. Earlier, rumours were rife that Sushil Kumar Modi, who had served as deputy chief minister during the NDA regime earlier, might be inducted in the Nitish cabinet as deputy CM.

As soon as the swearing-in ceremony started and the name of Nitish was announced, BJP supporters chanted 'Jai Sriram'. Later, slogans in favour of Nitish and other ministers echoed in the air. P9

FORMER GRASSROOTS BJP WORKER TO DEPUTY CM

Vijay Kumar Sinha, an experienced upper-caste BJP leader, has held various posts , including that of Bihar Assembly Speaker and the state's leader of the Opposition. Starting off as a grassroots BJP worker, Sinha, 64, made his debut in the Assembly in 2010 and got a ministerial berth seven years later. He belongs to the influential Bhumihar community, was an active member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad — the RSS' student wing

OBC LEADER WHOSE FORTUNES ROSE WITH BJP

An OBC leader of the BJP in Bihar where the party wants to transcend its "pro-upper caste" image, **Samrat Choudhary** has had a meteoric rise since he joined the outfit nearly seven years ago. Samrat was a minister in the government headed by Rabri Devi, RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's wife. In 2014, he became part of a rebel faction and joined the JD(U) government. Three years later, he grew disenchanted with the JD(U) and joined the BJP

Already knew he was going, says Kharge

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

THE latest political somersault by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar invited sharp reactions from the Opposition INDIA bloc on Sunday, with the Congress and other parties warning him that the people will never forgive his "betrayal".

Soon after Kumar announced his decision to form a government with the BJP's support, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the alliance members had an inkling of his decision to leave. "There are many like 'Aaya Ram-Gaya Ram' in the country. We already knew this, but we did not say anything to keep the INDIA alliance intact. If we say something wrong, a wrong message will go out. Lalu Prasad Yadav ji and Tejashwi Yadav ji had already given us this information," Kharge said.

Comparing Kumar to a "chameleon", Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "Nitish Kumar, who frequently changes political partners, is giving tough competition to the chameleons in changing colours." Ramesh said a "political drama" is being created to divert attention from Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which is set to enter Bihar.

The Congress leaders said Kumar's exit won't affect the alliance's electoral prospects. However, political observers say it will have a ripple effect on the equation of alliances in other states. Speaking to this newspaper, political analyst Sandeep Shastri said, "All the other partners will now play hardball with the Congress."

Police try to pacify the protesters at Keragodu village in Mandya district on Sunday | EXPRESS

LOWERING HANUMAN FLAG TURNS MANDYA TENSE

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

TENSION gripped Keragodu village in Mandya district as hundreds of people, and BJP and JDS leaders protested against the district administration's move to bring down a Hanuman flag that was hoisted on a 108-foot pole by the gram panchayat to mark Ram Mandir inauguration.

The police resorted to a mild lathicharge and arrested a few protesters, including Assembly Opposition leader R Ashoka, MLA Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and other leaders, when they proceeded towards the barricade put up to protect the flagpole. They were released later. The police snatched a knife from a youth, who threatened to kill himself if the Hanuman Dhwaja was brought down.

It all started when Assistant Commissioner Shiva Murthy and Tahsildar Shivakumar arrived at the village early on Sunday morning to lower the Hanuman flag and hoist the Tricolour. Keragodu villagers, including women, protested and claimed that they had taken permission from the village panchayat to hoist the flag. CONTINUED ON: P4

Anganwadi workers not paid for phone data

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @Karwar

MOBILE phones that were provided to Anganawadi workers to ease their job have turned into a money-draining gadget for them as they are spending from their pockets to recharge phone data packages.

Considering that Anganwadi workers are involved in government-related work, three years ago the government provided them with smartphones, which have now become a burden. The phones, provided under the 'Poshana Abhiyan scheme', allows them to enter data into registers. "We have to enter data daily, but our mobiles have not been recharged so far," said an Anganawadi worker in Karwar.

"It has been more than four months since the mobile data of these phones are recharged. We get Rs 10,000 per month as payment, but we spend from our pockets to recharge data," said Manjula, another Anganawadi teacher. CONTINUED ON: P5

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Up to 100% waiver on POS rental and service charges on select variants
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For more details scan QR code.
For assistance, call 1800 1234 or visit bank.sbi
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Padma awardee turned from burns victim to burns doc

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

ONCE known for her melodious voice, which turned hoarse, leading people to address her as 'sir' whenever she made a phone call, **Dr Prema Dhanraj**, who had aspired to become a singer, resolved to turn from a burns survivor to a burns surgeon at the same hospital where she was treated. Despite societal challenges, this 72-year-old specialist turned from a burns victim to a plastic (reconstructive) surgeon after persevering through a gruelling journey. Her determination culminated in a triumph, earning her the civilian honour, the Padma Shri, in this year's list.

Having grown up in a family with her parents as singers, Dr Prema started learning to sing at a young age. CONTINUED ON: P2

EXPRESS READ

UGC says de-reservation won't be in final draft

Chennai: After the nationwide backlash over the draft guidelines on de-reservation of vacancies in higher education institutions (HEIs), UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar said de-reservation will not find a place in the final guidelines. P5

CJI D Y Chandrachud hands over a statue of B R Ambedkar to Prime Minister Narendra Modi | PTI

Long vacation, adjournment culture need to go, says CJI

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that 'ease of justice' is the right of every citizen and the Supreme Court is its medium. Addressing the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Supreme Court, the PM said the Centre has sanctioned ₹800 crore for expansion of the SC building. Stressing the need for an empowered judicial system as a part of Viksit Bharat, Modi asked the apex court to work towards capacity building of stakeholders to ensure the transition from old laws to the new regime is seamless.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said the judiciary needs to begin "difficult conversations" to remain relevant as an institution. He said the 'adjournment culture' and long vacations need to go, to tackle the issue of case backlogs. "We must emerge out of the adjournment culture to a culture of professionalism," he said.

The Chief Justice of India urged all stakeholders to have a meaningful conversation on long vacations and think of alternatives such as flexitime for lawyers and judges to dispose of cases in a reasonable timeframe.

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 29/01/2024 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Pushya • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Chaturthi 5.58 am
Nakshatra: Purva Phalguni 4.55 pm • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 16°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST: Partly cloudy

Sunrise 6.46 am
Sunset 6.19 pm
Moonrise 9.15 pm
Moonset 9.07 am

WASTE PICKERS SHOW THE WAY: SEGREGATE AT SOURCE

Three more waste transfer stations to be set up in the city; Fresh survey on waste generation soon

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

BENGALURU Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), in collaboration with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), is set to optimize the process of waste collection and elimination with three more 150 tonne per day (TPD) waste transfer stations. Recent reports also revealed that after six years, BSWML is planning to conduct a fresh survey to re-estimate the waste generated by households and commercial establishments, and bulk waste generators. A tender for conducting a 'Survey of Waste Generators (block mapping) and digital mapping' has been set at Rs 4.50 crore.

While the government continues to fund initiatives to tackle waste issues in the city, which is estimated to produce about 6,000 TPD, a report by Hasiru Dala, an organisation that works for the betterment of the waste pickers' community, revealed there could be a better option and also a boon for the environment.

Tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) can be mitigated by adopting decentralised methods of segregation and disposal of waste. The study was conducted between January and December 2022 and the report was released recently. Around 90 waste pickers from seven dry waste collection centres (DWCC) in Jayanagar block in the city were successful in reducing 1,743 tonnes of carbon emissions per year, and aiding in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

The 'Decentralised Waste Management: A mitigation strategy for climate change' report also revealed that 17.11 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent per year is mitigated by the textile project in which cloth waste is collected separately and audited in the DWCC of Ward 177. The organisation used the Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator to estimate greenhouse gas emissions and said the "1,763 tonnage is the equivalent of removing 392 passenger cars from the road per year", read the report.

While conducting the study, researchers identified the landfill type and then looked at wet, dry and mixed as different categories, and how much emissions can be mitigated. Transportation of waste to landfill or other units was also calculated and emissions due to less energy-intensive sorting or preprocessing were also considered.

"Today, plastic has reached our oceans and is a huge problem. This is evidence that waste pickers and centres play a huge role in mitigating emissions and the difference they make. We need to understand that segregation at source is crucial," said Roy Anto, Lead Author of the report.

He added that we need to push for more advocacy measures to introduce decentralised systems.

The study highlights that zero waste implementation has a huge potential to divert waste from landfills and prevent greenhouse gas emissions. Roughly 2.5 tonnes per day of dry waste is collected at DWCCs, which is diverted from reaching the landfill.

STUDENT SAFETY

Schools told to raise awareness on POCSO Act

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

THE Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has issued a circular, reminding all government, private, aided and unaided schools in the state to create awareness about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act) and Karnataka State Child Protection Policy 2016. The circular added that standard operating procedure (SOP) and guidelines have been issued by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) which need to be compulsorily followed by the school administration.

The circular, issued on January 8, 2024, directed all stakeholders, including parents, teachers and officials, to carry out appropriate awareness campaigns about the Acts and implement the policies. The government has proposed an 'Open House' programme, according to directions of the POCSO Act awareness committee, and Block Education Officers (BEOs) have been informed about it to keep checking from time to time.

Schools can talk about child protection policy during prayer time, free periods, during teaching hours, as per the requirement and parent-teacher meetings (PTMs). Students can also be engaged through cultural activities, celebration of national festivals and community-oriented school programmes in the premises of the institutions, informed the department. The circular mentions that police officials should also engage in healthy discussions about laws related to children by visiting schools.

"It is compulsory in all schools to create awareness with the help of police. When officials from the police department visit schools, they should be sensitised to talk to children and special juvenile personnel should hold awareness campaigns so students don't fear it. Sexual exploitation, harassment and other atrocities against children need to be discussed in child-friendly language. Police and schools should have it as part of their calendars and conduct training regularly," said Nagasimha Rao, director, Child Rights Trust.

'My mom vowed to make me a doc'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A DAY before a music competition at school, the eight-year-old Prema's thoughts were only about giving her best at the competition. A few hours before the competition, with both her parents and helper away, she decided to make a cup of coffee before rehearsals. Being the eldest among her four siblings, she was familiar with cooking.

But the pump stove failed to start and when she added kerosene, the stove caught fire, leading to a blast that burned nearly her entire face. The girl, who was not tall, could not reach the water drum in time to douse herself. A neighbour studying on his terrace noticed the fire and rushed to douse it, recalls Dr Prema about how a day before a singing competition changed her life. Being the eldest among her four siblings, she was familiar with cooking.

But the pump stove failed to start and when she added kerosene, the stove caught fire, leading to a blast that burned nearly her entire face. The girl, who was not tall, could not reach the water drum in time to douse herself. A neighbour studying on his terrace noticed the fire and rushed to douse it, recalls Dr Prema about how a day before a singing competition changed her life.

Dr Prema said, "My lip was attached to my chest, and my neck was obscured. I underwent initial treatment in Bengaluru and then at Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore."

Three days before and after each surgery, tears of pain used to stream down her face, and her parents, witnessing her pain and blood stains on her dress, could not help but shed tears as well.

"After three unsuccessful surgeries, where doctors struggled to insert a tube due to obstruction in my neck, the fourth surgery worked and at that moment, my fate changed from being a singer to becoming a surgeon. When I was undergoing a 12-hour-long surgery, my mom, in a chapel at the hospital, vowed that if I recovered, she would make me a doctor at the same institute," Dr Prema recalled.

After she returned home, her cousins, who used to visit frequently, stopped staying over because her facial injuries frightened them. But Dr Prema never realised what was scaring them for almost a year, as her mother took down all the mirrors to shield her from seeing her face. It did not dawn on her until one day, while running around the house, she stumbled upon a mirror while the house helper was cleaning her mother's room, 'That day, the truth hit me, and I cried incessantly," she said.

Throughout the turmoil, the external world was harsh to the young Prema. Though her brother, a year younger than her, always accompanied her, people around them reacted with screams and hurtful names upon seeing her face. The siblings, at 8 and 7 years old, uncertain of how to console each other or hide their tears, only resorted to holding hands and looking away.

While Prema was adjusting to the challenges, her parents decided to reintegrate her into school after a three-year gap which left Prema, who was 11 by then, disheartened. "I had left school in the 5th standard, losing touch with my classmates. I agreed to privately take exams as the government wanted me to resume schooling from the 5th standard due to the three-year gap," she said.

After studying at a medical college in Hubballi, Dr Prema got a job at CMC where she had been treated and there, she met the director who had performed his first lip surgery on her. Dr Prema then went to Ludhiana for a six-month training programme in plastic surgery, and treated numerous patients with burns, amid the India-Pakistan war. Recalling her days as a patient, Dr Prema said, "Every time I visited a doctor, my mother would say she would like to see me in the doctor's chair. In 2002, I founded my NGO, Agni Raksha, following an award I received in 1999 from the USA as the only Indian burns surgeon and sat on the chair after serving as an Associate Professor. So far, Agni Raksha NGO has conducted 25,000 free surgeries."

HONOUR ROLL

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot greets Arun Yogiraj, sculptor of Ram Lalla idol, after felicitating him at Raj Bhavan on Sunday | EXPRESS

LONG ROAD

Architect walks for 335 km from Chennai to B'luru, creates awareness on universal designs

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

GITA Balakrishnan, a 55-year-old architect, researcher, and educator, walked alone for 335 km from Chennai to Bengaluru for the cause of Universal Design and Accessibility — focusing on raising awareness about creating inclusive environments for individuals of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

This was her fourth walk since she started it in February 2022. As she neared Bengaluru, the last 5 km lap was from the Spastics Society of Karnataka, an NGO that works for individuals with developmental disabilities, to Cubbon Park. From there, a commemorative walk was held with several disabled individuals to the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), which is accessible for people with disabilities.

Gita told TNIE that after the first walk, her learning was consolidated into six broad areas, which she now works on: Design and accessibility, awareness of construction workers — acknowledging them, making design accessible to rural areas, environment and infrastructure — impact on pedestrians, traditional wisdom and empowering architects all over India.

Highlighting the reduced walkability of Bengaluru, she explained that she has lived in the city for quite a long time and that post 9.30 pm, it is "quite impossible to walk comfortably." She added that traffic and different construction works have hampered pedestrian wellbeing. "It is difficult to find continuous pathways. There are also bollards on footpaths to stop bikers from riding on footpaths which end up restricting wheelchairs." She asserted that a balance needs to be found to address these challenges and added that a city's happiness quotient can be correctly defined through only pedestrian well-being.

Gita Balakrishnan at an event at the Museum of Art and Photography on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Gita not only walks but also creates content on the basics of design and architecture for students to imbibe inclusivity in their designs. "We are doing a programme in Maharashtra where we are getting construction workers to be instructors through a video series. Students of architecture colleges are recording videos on construction sites, explaining to us how a window should be fixed or how flooring tiles should be fixed," Gita adds. She also makes it a point to hold various formal and informal interactions on her walks to create awareness of the issue.

'Media is failing to do basic job of asking questions'

Bengaluru: A new reality has been constructed with the help of mainstream media. Currently, there is only one reality and there is a need for strong persistence, whatever may be the electoral mandate, said journalist Hartosh Bal on Sunday. He was speaking at the 'Gauri Day' event organised by Gauri Memorial Trust in memory of journalist Gauri Lankesh. The gathering was on the theme 'Re-constructing the fourth estate'. Geeta Seshu, an independent journalist, highlighted that the battle for those who dissent is long and extremely isolating. Under its draconian laws such as the UAPA, 15 journalists are registered and seven are behind bars. "One of the things we tend to forget is that the owners of media are also in parliament. They are the people who make the laws that are today the most oppressive, to regulate and control the media," she said. ENS

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

29TH January: When you go out tonight hold your forefinger at arm's length. You might be astounded to know that the area of sky the size of your nail conceals about 10,000 galaxies. Each of those galaxies might contain, say, a thousand million stars. Just think how many inhabited planets there must be out there. Perhaps there are some just like ours!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You have reached the end of a stressful and challenging phase and you should take advantage of increasingly relaxed conditions to recharge your batteries. Let me empha-sise the message by poin-ting out that you'll be back in the fray next month.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The Sun is about to add its help and support to that already offered by Mercury and Venus. As long as you can avoid the temptation to give someone a taste of their own medicine, this should be a positive and relatively contented time. Keep a sharp eye on potential financial problems, though.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Like many of your friends and associates, you are moving towards the end of a period that may have been rather upsetting, not to say traumatic. The general trend of events has been in your favour, and it will be pleasant to run into more restful circumstances.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The entire period is one of change and circumstances will alternate between challenging and harmonious phases, both of which are necessary to your progress. You have now moved into a positive period, so please be appreciative. After all, it might be an old cliché but every cloud really does have a silver lining.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
By the end of the week the planets will be focusing on regions of your chart associated with your major long-term ambitions. By all means press ahead with plans which are already underway, but at the same time you must open your eyes to the future and trust in yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The Moon is setting up a slightly uncertain mood, possibly because you're being forced to look at events from an emotional perspective rather than through your normal analytical spectacles. One other word of advice: as stress rises, so you have to look after your physical health, otherwise you'll burn yourself up.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Turn away from the complications of personal relationships and emotional entangle-ments, and concentrate on more worldly pursuits for a change. As a matter of interest, there is still great scope for improvement in your financial situation, perhaps because a friend points you in the right direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Close and intimate partners will be playing an ever greater role in your life over the coming week or so. You really must try to be more tolerant than usual of other people's little foibles and fancies. You see, if you give your understanding now, you'll receive support and loyalty later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Someone may be trying to get the better of you, possibly at work. There is nothing wrong with this, as a little healthy competition will help you get your own act together. You have a little over a week in which to take an important personal decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Excellent creative influences suggest that you must bring a healthy dose of spontaneity to all your affairs, including work. It's a positive time, not one to wallow in self-doubt. You'll be considering the legal implications of your plans, and contemplating the moral high ground.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The pressure is building up in regions of your solar chart closely connected to all that is most fundamental to your existence. A sentimental trip or nostalgic investiga-tion of your roots is likely some time soon. When it comes, go all the way.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You will be breaking through your natural shyness to an increasing extent before long. Such is the power and quality of your ideas that you must share them with people or risk a feeling of frustration. And then you'll end up doubting your real, undeniable talents. And that would never do.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

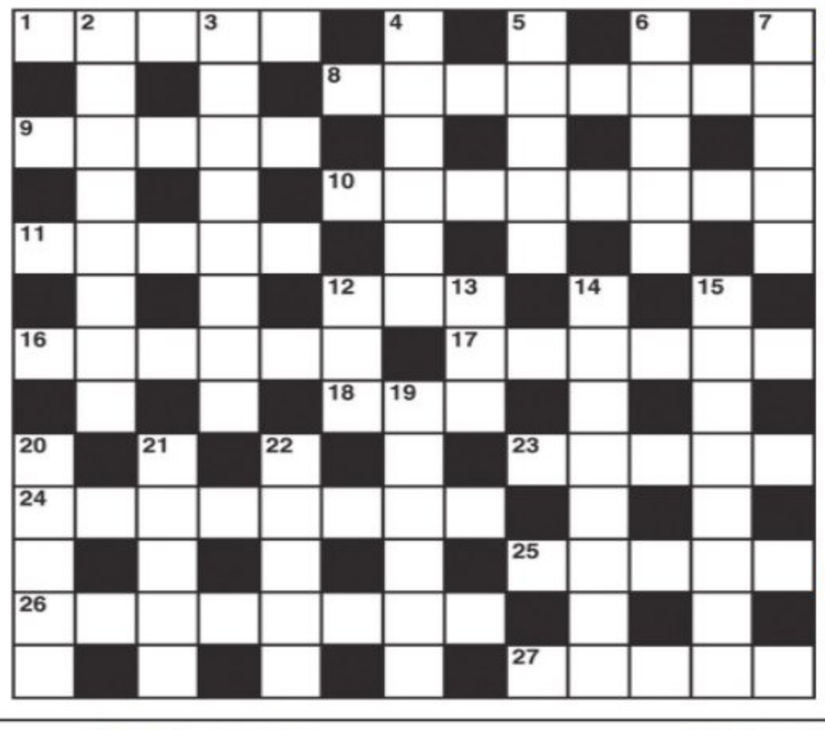
					5		2	4
7	4		3					
						5		
2	3		8		1	4		
		8		2		1		
		4	5		3		8	2
		3						
					9		7	3
6	2		7					

4	3	9	2	5	1	7	6	8
5	1	2	6	7	8	9	4	3
6	8	7	4	3	9	5	1	2
9	4	1	3	8	6	2	5	7
2	7	3	9	1	5	4	8	6
8	5	6	7	2	4	3	9	1
7	9	5	8	6	2	1	3	4
1	2	8	5	4	3	6	7	9
3	6	4	1	9	7	8	2	5

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Rub horse meat with hot spices (5)
8 Words are not about to stick (8)
9 Be vaguely aware of the meaning of a word perhaps (5)
10 Re my last solution; it's brilliant (8)
11 Go hunting we hear for a bird (5)
12 Desert creature (3)
16 Guess what the poet Donne was by profession (6)
17 Support but don't allow to proceed (4,2)
18 Mind someone else's business (3)
23 Girl takes Poles round America (5)
24 Flag and sail hung loosely (8)
25 Figure of girl soldier seen on square (5)
26 A singer to object to one wrong note (8)
27 What a plaintive dog may do when I disturb it (5)

DOWN
2 Suited to change knowing what it's like (4,2,2)
3 Check the others have water (8)
4 Time conceals a deserter's mistakes (6)
5 Windy fellow goes around the street (5)
6 Sort of green variety (5)
7 Remains in a corset (5)
12 Material for the local theatre (3)
13 They lose a quarter of what once belonged to you (3)
14 Prosper and show off (8)
15 The length of time around it varies (8)
19 Getting up a revolt (6)
20 Irons suit (5)
21 Sleep soundly (5)
22 Music rooms? (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Tenderfoot, 6 Soda, 10 Lured, 11 Eucharist, 12 Tandoori, 13 Islam, 15 Opiates, 17 Sleight, 19 Theorem, 21 Outworn, 22 Radii, 24 Noticing, 27 Guerrilla, 28 Magic, 29 Test, 30 Malefactor.

Down: 1 Till, 2 Narrative, 3 Ended, 4 Faeroes, 5 Orchids, 7 Oriel, 8 Automatons, 9 Manifest, 14 Forthright, 16 Terriers, 18 Good night, 20 Manilla, 21 Outrage, 23 Dress, 25 Comma, 26 Scar.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

MCAMO

PHEDT

PROTYH

RANYEL

Everyone loves your songs.
It's joyous to hear them sing.
FOR CHARLES WESLEY, SEEING PEOPLE'S REACTIONS TO HIS SONGS OF PRAISE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

_____ " _____ " _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: VALET GRIME THRILL OUTAGE
Answer: To leave 100% of their wealth to charity, they were going to have to — GIVE IT ALL THEY GOT

Chamarajanagar district in-charge minister K Venkatesh said that 32 families, who lost their relatives in the oxygen tragedy in the district hospital in 2021, will be provided with jobs from February 1. He said the kin of the family would be given jobs on outsourcing basis and would be made permanent at a later stage

ACP acquitted in DA case after 17 years

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

An assistant commissioner of police has been acquitted by the Special Court in a disproportionate assets case registered by the Karnataka Lokayukta police 17 years ago because of non-application of mind by investigation officers (IOs) to establish the charges, especially the acquisition of benami properties.

GT Ajjappa, who was ACP of the Vidhana Soudha Sub-Division, was accused of possessing disproportionate assets worth Rs 86 lakh, accounting for 156.87%, in 2007.

"Merely because the accused purchased many properties both movable and immovable, which according to the prosecution in the different persons' name, cannot be branded as criminal misconduct because these allegations require proof beyond reasonable doubt," said Judge SV Srikanth in a 250-page order, pointing out major loopholes in the investigation by two IOs.

Referring to the IOs -- Prasanna V Raju and K C Lakshminrayana -- then Lokayukta police inspectors, the court said both committed a grave mistake in not properly considering the annual income first and net income from 1997 to 2007 of Ajjappa's agricultural and horticultural income. The court noted that DySP UD Krishnakumar, who conducted further investigation, was not allowed to look into the statements recorded by IOs, as the ADGP directed him to affix his signature only on the chargesheet submitted in 2010. Prasanna, being a star witness, admitted that except for collecting documents, he had not done any investigation, the court added. It also stated that most of IOs' probe revolved around the information and documents given by the accused, but they did not consider the Annual Property Returns (APR) and Income Tax Returns (ITR) of the accused seriously. IOs should have held separate investigations. For verifying APRs and ITRs of public servants, IOs should possess special skills and take the investigation in a particular direction but which has not taken place... Most of the investigation ended up in the collection of documents from various departments and institutions and nothing else, the court said.

As long as the inputs or the calculations arrived at by the IOs are not on a sound basis, any calculation furnished can only amount to guesswork and then any type of evidence tendered by the prosecution cannot be considered as legal evidence, it said.

Fraudsters send emails in Archbishop's name

BENGALURU: Fraudsters swindled a person by seeking donations in the name of Archbishop of Bengaluru Rev Peter Machado. An initial email was sent to a person in October last year. Over the next 20 days, emails seeking financial aid were sent to at least 200 congregation members. The Archbishop became aware of the situation when someone, who had sent money reported it, a police officer said. A source from the police department said that the email was traced to Tanzania. A case has been registered at the East CEN police station.

COLOSSUS IN CITY

Ram Mandir Trust members lay the scaffolding for the construction of a 63-ft Ramanjaneya statue in Rajajinagar on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Man killed by friend over ₹3,000

BENGALURU: A 24-year-old man was bludgeoned to death by his friend and others after a quarrel broke out between them over Rs 3,000. Accused Chandrasekhar alias Pritam, Yeshwanth, Darshan alias Gunda, Prashant and Lankesh have been arrested. The incident occurred when deceased Darshan, a resident of Sharadhanagar, along with his friends, Nitin and Rakesh, went for a party at a pub. There his friend Chandrasekhar, a delivery executive, was also partying with his friends. Darshan, who had given Rs 3,000 to Chandrasekhar, asked him to repay it, which led to an argument between them. Chandrasekhar also fought with Nitin, police said, adding that after the party, all of them went near Rakesh's house where the matter escalated between Nitin and Chandrasekhar. During the argument, Darshan intervened, following which Chandrasekhar bludgeoned him with a brick. The Subramanyapura police have registered a case. ENS

BBMP garbage truck mows down 14-yr-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN another hit-and-run incident involving a BBMP garbage truck, a 14-year-old girl died when a vehicle rammed into her two-wheeler near Mosque Road in Pulakeshinagar traffic police station limits on Sunday morning. She was a Class 9 student at a private school in the city. The last rites were held in the evening. Pulakeshinagar traffic police have registered a case.

Meanwhile, three more road accidents were reported in the city on Saturday.

In one incident, 35-year-old Ishak Manji was fatally knocked down by a speeding two-wheeler when he was crossing the road. The incident happened around 11.15 am at Hennur traffic police limits.

Bike rider Mahiran Fernandez (30) was reportedly driving recklessly and lost control over his two-wheeler. Both fell on the road and sustained injuries. Passersby rushed them to a hospital where Manjhi died during treatment.

In another incident, 28-year-old accountant, Arun, died when a lorry rammed his two-wheeler around 11.30 pm on Bannerghatta Road.

Arun, a resident of JP Nagar, was heading from the Nice Road bridge towards Anjanapur Road when the accident occurred. Kumaraswamy Layout traffic police limits have registered a case.

In Electronic City traffic police station limits, 32-year-old Sujith Shah of Bihar died after a speeding lorry rammed into his two-wheeler. The deceased worked as a labourer and was staying at Chikkanagamangala.

MALNAD COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING: HASSAN

Advertisement Notification No.MCE/EST(1)2023-24, dated 24.01.2024

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for the posts mentioned below. Typed applications along with detailed resume and attested copies of the Certificates, marks cards along with a recent Passport size Photograph and a crossed **D.D. for Rs. 2000.00** drawn in favour of **The Principal, Malnad College of Engineering, Hassan** should reach the undersigned on or before 24.02.2024. Applicants shall fill the details in the Google form through the link displayed in the College **Web site: www.mcehassan.ac.in.**

Teaching posts (Un-aided)

Sl.No	Branch	Designation
1.	Computer Science & Engineering	Professor Associate Professor
2.	Information Science & Engineering	Professor Associate Professor
3.	Computer Science & Engineering (Artificial Intelligence & Machine learning)	Professor Associate Professor
4.	Computer Science & Business systems	Professor Associate Professor

Eligibility: Qualifications, experience, salary and age limit as per AICTE norms.

Professor	a) Ph. D. degree in relevant field and First class or equivalent at either Bachelor's or Master's level in the relevant branch
	b) Minimum of 10 years of experience in teaching/research/industry out of which at least 3 years shall be at a post equivalent to that of an Associate Professor
	c) At least 6 research publications at the level of Associate Professor in SCI journals/UGC/AICTE approved list of journals and at least 2 successful Ph.D. guided as Supervisor/Co-supervisor till the date of eligibility of promotion. OR At least 10 research publications at the level of Associate Professor in SCI journals/UGC/AICTE approved list of journals till the date of eligibility of promotion
Associate Professor	a) Ph.D. degree in the relevant field and First Class or equivalent at either Bachelor's or Master's level in the relevant branch
	b) At least total 6 research publications in SCI journals/UGC/AICTE approved list of journals.
	c) Minimum of 8 years of experience in teaching/research/industry out of which at least 2 years shall be Post Ph.D. experience.

NOTE:-
1. Candidates who are already in service should forward their application through proper channel.
2. Right of filling up the vacancy is left to the discretion of the Institution authorities.
3. Candidates having qualification as per 6th pay guidelines can also apply for the posts mentioned above. The selections of the candidates are decided on the basis of their eligibility in the respective pay scale and experience, age limit & research.

Sd/- Principal

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Tumakuru District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Tumakuru Smart City Limited

A pioneering initiative for the comprehensive development of Tumakuru District.

Inauguration/Foundation Stone laying for various development works in the limits of Tumakuru District and distribution of aid to beneficiaries of various schemes

By Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Inauguration and Foundation Stone laying for development works of various Departments | **Total approx. expenditure of Rs. 657.27 crore**

Date: Monday, 29th January, 2024. **Time:** 10.30 AM. **Venue:** Government Pre-University College Grounds, B.H. Road, Tumakuru.

Prominent Works:
- Bhoomi Puja for total 658 works under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme in the limits of Gubbi, Koratagere, Kunigal, Madhugiri, Pavagada, Sira, Tiptur, Tumakuru and Turuvekere Taluks of Tumakuru District. Approx. cost of works: Rs. 32486 lakhs.
- Inauguration of Comprehensive Re-Development Works (First Stage) of Tumakuru Bus Stand under Tumakuru Smart City Project. Approx. cost of works: Rs. 10000 lakhs.
- Inauguration of Viveka Class Rooms in the limits of Tumakuru District. Approx. cost: Rs. 1718.30 lakhs.
- Foundation Stone laying for construction of Stadium in the campus of Sri Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru. Approx. cost: Rs. 200 lakhs.
- Distribution of aid/equipment to 30125 beneficiaries of Tumakuru District under various schemes. Approx. cost: Rs. 16319.26 lakhs.

August Presence

Sri D.K. Shivakumar — Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Sri A. Narayanaswamy — Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India
Dr. G. Parameshwara — Hon'ble Minister for Home and Tumakuru District In-charge Minister
Sri H.K. Patil — Hon'ble Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, Tourism.
Sri Ramalinga Reddy — Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai
Sri K.J. George — Hon'ble Minister for Energy
Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa — Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
Sri Satish Jarakiholi — Hon'ble Minister for Public Works
Sri Krishna Byregowda — Hon'ble Minister for Revenue
Sri Priyank Kharge — Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, I.T. & B.T.
Sri N. Chaluvaraya Swamy — Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture
Sri S.S. Mallikarjun — Hon'ble Minister for Mines & Geology and Horticulture
Sri Santosh S. Lad — Hon'ble Minister for Labour
Sri K. Venkatesh — Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture
Sri Shivaraj Sangappa Tangadagi — Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare and Kannada & Culture
Sri B. Nagendra — Hon'ble Minister for Youth Services, Sports, and Scheduled Tribes Welfare
Sri K.N. Rajanna — Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation
Sri Suresh B.S. — Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning
Smt. Laxmi R. Hebbalkar — Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Disabled and Senior-Citizens Empowerment
Sri Mankal Vaidya — Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Ports, Inland Transport
Sri Madhu Bangarappa — Hon'ble Minister for Primary and Secondary Education
Dr. M.C. Sudhakar — Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education
Sri T.B. Jayachandra — Hon'ble Special Representative of Karnataka State in New Delhi and MLA, Sira Assembly Constituency

Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Home Minister and **Sri K.N. Rajanna,** Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation inaugurating the New Police Residential Complex at Tumakuru.

Presided by

Sri G.B. Jyothi Ganesh, Hon'ble MLA, Tumakuru City Assembly Constituency

Hon'ble MPs, MLAs, MLCs, Worshipful Mayor of Tumakuru Mahanagara Palike, Local Elected Representatives will participate in the programme as Special Invitees.

DELIVERED AS PROMISED... | FREE BUS Service for women across Karnataka | Gruha Jyothi Up to 200 Units of Free Electricity to each home | Anna Bhagya 10kg Free Food Grains (per person / per month) | Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000 per month female head of the family | Yuva Nidhi ₹3000 ₹1500

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

All are Cordially Invited

karnataka information

Former CM Jagadish Shettar on Sunday dismissed the Congress' allegation that he had retreated to the BJP, fearing raids by the I-T department and ED by the Centre. He reiterated that he returned to his former party, as he wanted Narendra Modi to become Prime Minister a third time

KEEPING WATER CRISIS AT BAY

After a weak monsoon, effective management of water supply from dams will address drinking water needs

TEAM TNIE

EVEN as the monsoon has been poor in many districts of the state, effective management of inflow and outflow from various dams and rivers over the past few months seems to have prevented a possible drinking water crisis. Although a dry spell persisted in several areas of North and Hyderabad Karnataka for several weeks during the monsoon, the available sources of water have been effectively utilised to ensure supply of drinking water to the affected areas. The dry areas of Kalaburgi, Vijayapura and Ballari are likely to face drinking water problems if the authorities fail to utilise the available or alternative sources of water. However, officials are confident that the government will implement all measures needed to avoid a crisis situation. With a large number of taluks already declared drought-hit, the government is facing an uphill task to avoid a water crisis in summer, which is fast approaching.

ALMATTI DAM: VIJAYAPURA'S LIFELINE

Though Vijayapura district has been declared drought-hit due to scanty rainfall, the district may not face a severe drinking water crisis in the coming summer due to availability of water in the Almatti dam. The authorities said the dam did not receive enough water due to low rainfall, yet it has sufficient for drinking water needs till June this year. Meanwhile, the government has issued directions to not release water for irrigation from the dam, and reserve it for drinking till the next monsoon. Amid this, the district administration has pressed some 18 tankers into service to supply drinking water to parts of Tikota and Indi taluk. District Minister MB Patil directed officials to identify private borewells and list out villages that may face a water crisis. These private borewells can be utilised to supply water through tankers during emergencies, he said during a recent KDP meeting.

UDUPI: SCARCITY UNLIKELY

Though there is no drinking water problem in Udupi district as of now, the summer is going to be harsh as there was scarcity of rainfall in the last monsoon. Udupi received 3,525mm rainfall from January 1 till December-end 2023, against the normal rainfall of 4,534mm. However, the rainfall pattern was not favourable either, as initially it poured and then there was no sign of rain in August and September. Udupi DC Dr Vidyakumari said the District Disaster Management Committee had held a meeting recently, and it was understood that water scarcity had not hit the district so far. However, the situation may not remain favourable by February-end, so tahsildars have been instructed to hold a meeting to discuss the drinking water issue every week. "We have about 76 private borewells that have been identified by engineers. If the need arises, water will be sourced from those borewells," the DC said. There is no scarcity of water in Baje dam, that supplies water to Udupi city. However, people should start using water judiciously, the DC said.

KALABURGI: HARSH SUMMER AHEAD

Though summer is three months away, some villages of Kalaburagi district have already started facing a drinking water crisis. According to official sources, three villages of Aland taluk are hit by shortage, and water is supplied from private borewells. The district administration has identified 282 villages and 17 wards which could face a drinking water crisis -- Afzalpur taluk has 86 villages, the highest number, followed by Aland (45 villages), Kalaburagi (40), Sedam (28), Kamalapur (23), Kalagi (17), Chincholi (15) and Chittapur taluk (14). Official sources said the tender for supplying water through tankers was called in December itself, but as none of the agencies responded, a re-tender was called on January 5 for supplying drinking water through tankers. Meanwhile, the zilla panchayat has identified 157 private borewells with a high water yield for villages which are expected to face a shortage in the coming months. District unit president of Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha Sharanabasappa Mamashetty said that about 35 villages are already facing a water crisis and the district administration is downplaying its severity. He said that people in the villages, especially those from the Banjara community, have started migrating as they have no work and the water problem is growing.

BALLARI: IN THE GRIP OF A CRISIS

Ballari district, including the city of Ballari, has been facing a drinking water crisis for the past one month. Though summer is yet to arrive, city residents are getting water once every 10 to 15 days. In villages, people depend on public water tanks but even there, supply is limited, and they are angry with the administration. During his recent visit, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda promised to set up a task force to handle the water crisis effectively. Deputy Commissioner Prashanth Kumar Mishra said this year, the district is facing nearly 40 per cent deficit rainfall. Officials conducted a series of meetings with taluk officials to manage the drought situation.

MYSURU: NO WORRIES

Despite a failed monsoon and the government declaring Mysuru as drought-hit, the district will not face a drinking water problem till May or June. Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (CNNL) officials say water in the KRS, Kabini, Taraka and Harangi dams can be managed for drinking purposes till June. Mysuru and Bengaluru will not face a drinking water crisis. As per a recent report which CNNL submitted to the revenue minister, there will be no water problem till June. If there are pre-monsoon showers in March-April, they can provide drinking water till September. Meanwhile, the authorities have identified 102 villages which may face a drinking water problem. To address the issue, they have listed 93 borewells which have enough water. In the event of a crisis, water will be supplied through these borewells. Despite a weak monsoon, the water level in KRS is 93ft, Nugu dam 78.8ft, Kabini 180ft and Harangi dam 142ft. At KRS Dam, water can be drawn till 60ft. Around 5,000 cusecs of water is required daily to supply drinking water for Mysuru, Bengaluru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar districts. To ensure there is enough water in the dams till the monsoon, CNNL authorities are releasing water from dams to canals for standing crops in the catchment areas of Kabini and KRS dams, on kattu paddathi basis, and have already stopped releasing water for paddy crops. DC KV Rajendra said there will be no drinking water problem for people and livestock till the monsoon, as the dams hold enough water.

KOLAR: YEROGOL DAM THE SAVIOUR

Following a good amount of rainfall in the past three years, Kolar district, identified as a parched district, is not facing a drinking water crisis. Through the newly inaugurated Yerogol dam, drinking water is being supplied to Bangarpet and Kolar, and there is sufficient water for another nine months, said Kolar Deputy Commissioner Akram Pasha. In other taluks, an action plan has been prepared to dig 500 borewells in rural areas, and 200 borewells in urban areas, and there is no question of supplying drinking water through private tankers. If required, water will be supplied through town and city municipalities.

(Inputs from S Velayudham/ Kolar, Prakash Samaga/ Udupi, Firoz Rozindar/ Vijayapura, Kiran Balannanavar/ Ballari, Ramakrishna Badseshi/ Kalaburagi, BK Laxmikantha/ Mysuru)

Bengaluru will not run dry

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

WITH summer approaching, one of the biggest concerns that bothers Bengalureans is the drinking water crisis. While Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials are confident of tiding over any crisis in the present condition, they are worried that if there is an order to release Cauvery water for standing crops in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in April and May, the board will have a tough challenge meeting the drinking water needs of the city.

Echoing the concern for April, a senior BWSSB official said they have appealed to Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited through two representations, to reserve 2.42 tmcft water for April and May, which is peak summer.

Amid these challenges, the water board will launch a 'Save Water' campaign in all media, appealing to citizens to use water judiciously, and not use running or flowing water for washing vehicles.

BWSSB Engineer-in-Chief B Suresh said, "At present, there is stock of 28 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) water in Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) and Kabini dams. Bengaluru city requires 1.6 tmcft of water per month, and if we go by that calculation, we may require about 11 to 12 tmcft of drinking water."

Apart from giving permission for over 2 lakh borewells for residents in the past, the Board is also taking care of water supply from 12,000 public borewells that were transferred from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in 2015. "Some houses get piped Cauvery water and some days, they draw water from public borewells which not every resident has a connection to. Local engineers don't do much as there is political interference," said a resident.

BIG PICTURE

110 villages yet to get Cauvery water

An official said the board is speeding up its Cauvery Stage V and once commissioned, the 110 villages merged from Yelahanka, Byatarayanapura, Bommanahalli, RR Nagar and Mahadevapura will also get piped Cauvery water.

"At present, water is supplied through big tankers to these areas," said the official. He added that the Rs 5,500 crore work in TK Halli pumping station, connecting Vajarahalli in South Bengaluru to TK Halli pumping station in Northeast Bengaluru is almost complete. Water will be stored in three groundwater reservoirs between TK Halli pumping station connecting to Vajarahalli, and four ground water level reservoirs between TK Halli pumping station. "A total of 775 million litres of water per day will be supplied to 110 villages merged into BBMP, once it is commissioned in May," said an official.

However, residents of Mahadevapura zone, which is the tail-end of Bengaluru, often complain about scarce water supply, despite having a Cauvery connection in some parts, and hope that once Stage V is complete, they get enough water for their drinking water needs.

The water crisis has become acute in and around Whitefield, with ward committee proceedings being dominated by dried public borewells, and the consequent disruption of water supply to thousands of homes. The root cause for this is the blatant exploitation of groundwater for construction purposes by some builders, opined Sandeep Anirudhan, convener, Coalition for Water Security. "In the larger scheme of things, we need to seriously attempt to address the requirement for local water security," he says. As water needs in outer Bengaluru shoot up in summer, tanker owners have the last laugh. The price of a tanker load of 12,000 litres is priced at Rs 1,500, while 7,000 litres costs Rs 900.

AT A GLANCE

Required drinking water in Bengaluru per month is 1.6 tmcft

775 million litres of water per day for 110 villages

BWSSB says storage at KRS and Kabini is 28 tmcft each

To address drinking water woes, BWSSB pins hope on ₹5,500-cr TK Halli project

12,000 public borewells will also cater to drinking water needs during summer

In tail-end Bengaluru, residents depend on water tankers, pay up ₹1,500 per tanker load of 12,000 litres, and ₹900 per 7,000-litre load.

CM Siddaramaiah inaugurates 'Shoshithara Jagruthi Samavesha' on Sunday | EXPRESS

Will place caste survey report before cabinet: CM

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @ Chitradurga

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday announced that he will receive the caste-based socio-economic-education survey report prepared by the Kantharaj Commission.

Addressing the public at a convention of the Shoshithara Jagruthi Samavesha (Exploited Communities Awareness) at a mega stage near Madara Channaiah Gurupeet in the city, he said, "I have informed the chairman of the Backward Classes Commission Jayaprakash Hegde to submit the report to the government, and I will receive it. If there are any anomalies in the report, they will be rectified," he said. "I am not a dictator, I will place the caste-based census report before the cabinet, and a decision will be taken after consultations and discussions,"

Stating that many demands were placed by the organisers of the samavesha, Siddaramaiah said he will stand by the exploited community, whether he is in power or not. "When I was Chief Minister (2013 to 2018), I entrusted H Kantharaj to conduct this caste-based socio-economic survey and submit the report, and an amount of Rs 168 crore was sanctioned to the commission. However, it was not possible to receive the report in time, and when it was ready, the coalition government led by HD Kumaraswamy didn't receive it. The BJP government led by BS Yediyurappa and later Basavaraj Bommai, too, didn't show any interest in it. But now that we have come to power, I have requested Jayaprakash Hegde to submit it," he said.

"Many people are criticizing the report without reading it or knowing what it contains. They say the report is unscientific, even I don't know what is in the report," Siddaramaiah added. "Rahul Gandhi has assured that a caste-based socio-economic survey will be held across the country if the Congress comes to power." Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, ministers HC Mahadevappa, Satish Jarkiholi, NS Bose Raju, KH Muniyappa, Byrati Suresh, Santhosh Lad, Madhu Bangarappa, Zameer Ahmed Khan, and Dinesh Gundurao condemned the atrocities on the oppressed.

Boards, corpns chairperson term reduced to two years

ENS @ Bengaluru

AHEAD of Lok Sabha polls, wanting to assure that more number of party workers would be given posts of chairpersons to various boards and corporations, the state government has reduced the tenure of the posts to two years.

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar said this is to ensure that more party workers can be included and get rewarded for their work. Shivakumar added that the tenure has been reduced to two years to ensure that all party workers, who have toiled hard for the Congress over the years, are recognised and rewarded suitably.

"This is not the formula of Siddaramaiah or DK Shivakumar. Many party workers have worked for party and it is the party's responsibility to reward them," he added. When asked about the BJP leaders' statement that their party will win all 28 seats in the upcoming general election, he said, "The BJP was saying that they will win all the 224 seats in the Assembly polls last year, and all know what happened. We had said we will win 136-140 seats and we won those many seats. Let them make whatever estimation they want to."

Hoisting Bhagwa Dhwaja on govt buildings illegal: Home Minister

ENS @ Tumakuru

HOME Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday defended the police and the authorities for acting against those who hoisted a 'Hanuma Dhwaja' on the premises of gram panchayat office in Keragodu village of Mandya district, terming the latter illegal.

He suggested that instead of government premises, people can hoist the 'Bhagwa Dhwaja' on temples and private places. "In the village, some people want permission to hoist the Kempegowda flag and another Dr B R Ambedkar's flag. These kind of things should not happen sinme it disturbs peace of society," he remarked.

Speaking to reporters, he defended the move of the police to remove the Bhagwa flag, saying that the people of the village had taken permission to hoist the Tricolour, but hoisted the 'Hanuma Dhwaja', which is illegal.

"Village residents had taken permission to hoist the Tricolour, but hoisted the 'Hanuma Dhwaja' for which there was no permission, which is why the police removed the flag, and chased away the protesters by resorting to lathicharge. Later, they hoisted the National Flag. We have no objection to hoist the 'Hanuma Dhwaja', but it should not happen on government properties," he clarified.

Replying to the BJP's charge that the Congress government is anti-Hindu, Parameshwara said, "... We are saying that we too are Hindus, but work within the legal framework."

Police detain pro-Hindu activists during their protest in Mandya on Sunday | EXPRESS

BJP to protest across Karnataka today

Bengaluru: BJP leaders have decided to protest across the state on Monday, against the state government for allegedly insulting the 'Hanuma Dhwaja' in Mandya. BJP state president BY Vijayendra said that they are opposing the Congress government's alleged anti-Hindu stance, and will protest across the state, condemning the lowering of the Hanuma Dhwaja in Mandya. "We are protesting against the state government for its anti-Hindu move," he added.

Govt playing appeasement politics: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Haveri

ACCUSING the state government of indulging in appeasement politics by removing the 'Hanuma Dhwaja' in Mandya, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said the law and order situation has deteriorated in the state, and those involved in illegal activities were getting protection.

He said the government got the sacred flag removed through the police. "While CM Siddaramaiah chants the mantra of 'Sarva Janangada Shantiya Thota', the law and order situation had deteriorated. Many incidents have been reported during the Pran Pratishtha of Lord Ram last week. Some persons were also arrested. This has been happening everywhere. The government is playing appeasement politics and protecting those involved in nefarious activities," Bommai said.

The former CM alleged that no action has been taken, despite attacks on Dalits and women from the minority community, with atrocities against women having increased by 30 per cent.

Prohibitory orders issued, police camp in village

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The villagers had pooled in money to erect the pole and the Hanuman flag was flying since the inauguration of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya on January 22, they told the officers.

As the news spread, villagers from the neighbouring Sidde Gowda Doddi, Manche Doddi, Marlinga Doddi, Hosur, Thalamerla Doddi, Panjegowda and Kalmati Doddi joined the protest. They raised Ram and Hanuman chants, waved saffron Hanuman flags and raised slogans against local MLA Ravikumar. As tension rose, the district administration clamped prohibitory orders and stationed KSRP and DAT platoons.

After the lathicharge, the villagers blocked the Mandya-Yediyur highway and tried to cook food in the middle of the road, but were stopped by the police. The villagers announced that every house will hoist a Hanuman flag which will be distributed free to register their protest against the district administration.

District in-charge Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy said the administration is not against hoisting the Hanuman flag in private land or at temples, but the gram panchayat should not have given permission to hoist it at a public place. "Neither the local MLA, nor me are connected to the Hanuman flag issue," he clarified.

Local legislator Ravikumar alleged that R Ashoka and JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy are spreading hatred among people for their political gains. As the Hanuman flag controversy erupted, JDS leaders DC Thamanna and Suresh Gowda, district BJP president Indresh and others rushed to the spot and raised slogans against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Ashoka alleged that Siddaramaiah is against Lord Rama and Hanuman. He said that Lord Hanuman has no place in his own land and criticised the police for hoisting the national flag at 3 pm, when it should be done before 9 am as per flag code. BJP leader Chandagala Shivanna said 18 out of 20 members at the gram panchayat were in favour of erecting the pole.

Bajrang Dal activists threatened to call for a Mandya city bandh.

A 35-year-old man died on Saturday after a portion of his eatery's wall collapsed on him at Thumbakkam near Tiruvallur. The deceased, Gopinath, had begun renovation work for his eatery recently. On Saturday, he was drilling on a wall, when it collapsed on him.

After backlash, UGC scraps de-reservation plans

'Final version of guidelines will not have de-reservation provisions'

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@Chennai

AFTER nationwide backlash for the University Grants Commission's (UGC) draft guidelines on procedure for de-reservation of vacancies in higher education institutions (HEIs), UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar told TNIE that de-reservation will not find a place in the final guidelines.

"This is only the draft and not the final guidelines. This is a comprehensive document that puts together various acts and Supreme Court judgments on reservation. The final version (of the guidelines) will not have de-reservation provisions," Jagadeesh Kumar said.

The commission, in a separate post on 'X' quoting the chairman, said, "This is to clarify that there has been no de-reservation of reserved category positions in Central Educational Institutions (CEI) in the past and there is going to be no such de-reservation. It is important for all HEIs to ensure that all backlog positions in reserved categories are filled up through concerted efforts."

Similarly, the Union Ministry of Education also responded to the TNIE report, stating, "Reservation in Central Educational Institutions (CEI) is provided for all posts in direct recruitment in teacher's cadre as per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019. After enactment of this Act, no reserved post is to be de-reserved. The Ministry of Education has given directives to all the CEIs to fill up the vacancies strictly as per the 2019 ACT."

The draft guidelines of the UGC, which was first reported by TNIE on Sunday, had said, "There is a general ban on de-reservation of reserved vacancies (for SCs, STs, and OBCs) in case of direct recruitment. However, in rare and exceptional cases when a vacancy in a Group A service (post) cannot be allowed to remain vacant in public interest, the university concerned may prepare a proposal for de-reservation of the vacancy."

While there is continuous accusation that the seats reserved for SCs, STs, and OBCs are given to general candidates, the BJP is now trying to institutionalise it. There are several reserved posts unfulfilled in central government departments. This is murder of reservation," said DMK's Mano Thangaraj, Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, on social media.

PMK founder Dr Ramadoss in a statement said if the draft guidelines are accepted, it would mean that reservation has been abolished in recruitment for higher education institutions.

TOILING HARD

A farmer working on her paddy field in Visakhapatnam district on Sunday | SATYANARAYANA.

125th birth anniv of Field Marshal KM Cariappa celebrated in Kodagu

Madikeri : Retd Air Marshal K C Cariappa, son of FM K M Cariappa called upon youngsters of Kodagu to join the Indian military taking inspiration from his father. He was speaking on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Field Marshal KM Cariappa celebrated in Madikeri. The event was hosted by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat and Department of Kannada and Culture Department. "Known for his discipline, diligence and punctuality, Field Marshal Cariappa made his mark in the defence sector of the nation and it is important that youngsters inculcate his virtue of 'nation being first'," he said. MP Pratap Simha said that Field Marshal K M Cariappa is a source of inspiration. MLA Dr Manthar Gowda spoke and said that everyone should study the writings and speeches of Cariappa. K G Bopaiah, former speaker, said that Field Marshal Cariappa was an incomparable brave army chief of the country. DC Venkat Raja, CMC president Anita Poovaiah and others were present at the event.

The birth anniversary was celebrated at his memorial in his house, in Madikeri.

Money for mobile recharge released: Min

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"MOST of us use wifi or share hotspots with others. Sometimes, even that becomes difficult because of poor network. In some interior parts of the district, internet connectivity is poor. We carry work home and that prevents us from doing our household chores," added Manjula.

They begin work by 7 am, but their work remains pending even after 10 pm. "Since Anganawadis feed children under government schemes, if we do not make the data entry, it is considered that we have not fed the children. We are answerable to higher-ups," the teachers said.

"At Anganwadis, we spend more time making entries on mobile phones than teaching kids. It is better if the government takes back these mobile phones and gives us old register log books in the interest of children," another Anganwadi worker said. To make matters worse, these mobile phones are now outdated. "It is time they are replaced with new devices," said a senior officer on condition of anonymity.

CDPO Arun Naik, when contacted, said, "We have around 2,000 Anganwadi workers. We will pay them Rs 2,000 each to recharge their mobile currency every year," he said.

Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar told TNIE that money has been released for mobile currency recharge for Anganawadi teachers. "Rs 6.28 crore has been released. As for the replacement of phones, I will get the cabinet approval and call for tenders in the first week of February. We need to provide 70,000 mobile phones for all Anganawadi teachers. Since the cost exceeds Rs 10 crore and as per the Transparency Act, we need to call for tenders. It has to be placed before the cabinet for approval," she said.

CAUVERY WATER COLLECTED FOR 'BRAMHAKALASHOTSAVA' OF TN TEMPLE

Madikeri: Over 350 devotees from Tamil Nadu arrived at Talacauvery to collect holy Cauvery water for the 'Bramhakalashotsava' of a temple. The collected holy water will be used for the renovation of a 16th century Shiva temple at Tirupur district of Tamil Nadu. Avinashi Lingeshwarar temple also called as Karunaiyaaththall temple is the 16th century temple in Tirupur. History mentions that the temple was built during the Chola Dynasty and is maintained today by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Tamil Nadu government. Besides, the temple is undergoing renovation at a cost of Rs 25 crore even as the temple committee has planned special rituals during the ceremony. Arunachalam, one of the members of the temple renovation committee, confirmed, "The 'Kumba Abhisheka' ritual will be held next month and only the holy water from Talacauvery will be used during the Bramhakalashotsava."

EXPRESS READ

3 feared killed in blast at cracker godown in DK

Mangaluru: Three labourers died in a blast that occured at a cracker godown in Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Swamy (55), Varghese (68) from Kerala and Chethan (25) from Hassan district. The explosion occurred at Solid Fireworks godown at Katyaru in Kukkedi village of Belthangady in the evening hours. Meanwhile, six other labourers Dinesh, Kiran, Kumara, Kallesha, Prem and Keshava also sustained injuries. Crackers were being made at a property belonging to one Bashir. Nine labourers were present at the godown at the time of the blast. Due to the impact of the blast, strewn body parts were scattered around the exploded location.

2 held, 4 others booked in moral policing incident in Tumakuru

Tumakuru: Police have arrested two men and booked four others, all Bajrang Dal members, for allegedly attacking a youth in a moral policing incident on Friday night. Manju Bhargav, Hanumantharaju, Jeevan, Sharat, Ravi and Thyagaraj had attacked Salman who had been dropping a girl to her home in Banashankari on his two-wheeler. Salman runs a mobile repair shop in the city and is acquainted with the girl for some time. He used to regularly pick her up from home, drop her to her office and then bring her back.

20-km stretch to be lit up for Hampi Utsav starting Feb 2

Hosapete: Hampi Utsav, a three-day event, will be held from February 2 to 4. It will be inaugurated by CM Siddaramaiah on Friday. Local talents and many celebrities like Sandalwood actors Ravichandran, Darshan Toogudeepa, Prem, singer Vijaya Prakash and film producer Ashwini Puneeth Rajkuamar will attend the Utsav. M S Divakara, deputy commissioner, Vijayanagara told *TNIE*, "Although, every year, major lighting decoration is done in Hampi, this is for the first that an entire stretch of 20 km from Hosapete city to Kamalpur Dr B R Ambedkar Circle and Kaddirampur route is being illuminated with street lights. A team from Mysuru which makes preparations for Dasara festival every year is making the lighting decorations.

Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Shri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

"We all have a right to Clean Air, And we all have a Responsibility to Protect the Environment"

A Pollution-Free Vehicle can Save our Lives

Things to be Done

Sri Ramalinga Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department at a programme to create awareness about Pollution-Free Environment.

Use of mass transport such as BMTC, KSRTC, Metro to control air pollution.

Use bicycle for short Distance

Putting emphasis on battery-operated vehicles, LPG/CNG vehicles, and BS6 vehicles

Keeping the vehicles in good condition

Vehicles should be inspected at air pollution testing centers on time and obtaining a Pollution Under Control Certificate is mandatory.

Adverse Effects:

Be aware that the gases such as Carbon Dioxide (Co_2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Lead (Pb), Nitrogen oxide (NO_x), Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) and Suspended Particulated Matter (SPM) emitted by vehicles are harmful to adversely affecting the environment and human health.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S.
Government Secretary,
Transport Department.

Yogeesh A.M. I.A.S.
Commissioner,
Transport & Road Safety Authority Bengaluru

J. Gnanendra Kumar
Additional Transport Commissioner
(Environment and e-governance)

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98,Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV,Gurgaon-122015.(Haryana) and **Branch Office at:-"1st floor Y V S reddy Building Anekal road,Chandapura,Bangalore-560099** "under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Auhorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website:www.iiflonehome.com

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower (s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
1. Mrs. Saraswathi V 2.Mathru Enterprises 3. Mr.Murali 4.Mrs. Radhamma K (Prospect No. 966181)	21-Oct-2022 & Rs.59,96,700/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Only) **Bid Increase Amount** Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) (For Property1) **Bid Increase Amount** Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) (For Property 2)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing **Property 1:** Flat No 403, Admeasuring Land Area 176 Sq. Ft., Carpet Area 705 Sq. Ft., Super Built Up 830 Sq.Ft., 4th Floor, Chikkanamangala Village, Sarjapura, Anekal, Bangalore, 562106, Karnataka, India **(Carpet are 1188 sq. ft.)** **Property 2 :** Flat no G 03, ground floor, Chikkanamangala Village, sarjapura, Anekal bazar, Bangalore, 562106, Karnataka, India. **(Carpet are 1188 sq. ft. and super built up area 830 sq. ft.)**	26-Aug-2023 **Total Outstanding as On Date 03-Jan-2024** **Rs. 67,34,425/-** (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five Only)	**Rs.15,00,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** **Rs.1,50,000/-**(Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) **(For Property1)** **Reserve Price** **Rs.15,00,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** **Rs.1,50,000/-**(Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) **(For Property 2)**

Date of Inspection of property	EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E-Auction
09-Feb-2024 1100 hrs -1400 hrs	12-Feb-2024 till 5 pm.	14-Feb-2024 1100 hrs-1300 hrs.

Mode Of Payment:- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www. iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.

Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction. **For balance payment, upon successful bid, has to pay through RTGS/NEFT. The accounts details are as follows: a) Name of the Account:- IIFL Home Finance Ltd., b) Name of the Bank:- Standard Chartered Bank, c) Account No:-9902879xxxxx followed by Prospect Number, d) IFSC Code:- SCBL0036001, e) Bank Address: Standard Chartered Bank, 90 M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider **https://www. iiflonehome.com** well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. Bidders are advised to go through the website https: //www.iiflonehome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
6. **For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- auction.hl@iifl.com, Support Helpline Numbers:@1800 2672 499.**
7. **For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- auction.hl@iifl.com**
8. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
9. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
10. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
11. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE RULE 9 SUB RULE (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost

Place:- Bangalore Rural, Date: 29-Jan-2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.**

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Stressed Assets Recovery Branch

No.11/90, 3rd Floor, Near Old Shivaji Theater, Opp. Trust Well Hospital, J C Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. Phone: 080- 25943678, 25943663 Fax No. 080-25943664, Email:sbi.05173@sbi.co.in.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

A/c. No.: 40521057639/40754559100

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) issued a Demand Notice dated **07.11.2023** calling upon the borrower: **M/S Rich Glam Fashions, Propritrix: Mrs.Shabrin Khanam** W/o Rahamathulla Khan, residing at Door No. 37/17, 1st main Road, 5th Cross, 7th Sector, Madeena Nagar, HSR Layout, Bengaluru -560068 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.24,87,414/-** (Rupees Twenty four lakhs eighty seven thousands four hundred fourteen only) as on 29.08.2023 and interest & expenses thereonwithin 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor has failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on **24.01.2024.**

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an aggregate amount of **Rs.25,46,517/-** (Twenty five lakhs forty six thousand five hundred seventeen only) as on 18.01.2024 + interest + expenses thereon.

The borrower's / guarantor's/ mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the property measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet, bearing site no. 27, sy.no.55/1 and 55/2, in Sri Krishna Layout, Maragondanahalli, village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District. Bounded as under: East by : Road, West by : Sy no. 65, North by : Site No. 26, South by : Site No. 28.

Place:Bengaluru
Date: 24.01.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, is intended to purchase the schedule property. The owner represent and warrant that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and he has not entered into any Agreement of Sale / Development agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding, or any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale/transfer/development of the Schedule property and that he has not created any charge or lien or encumbered the Schedule property to any other persons. Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or demand or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s to this transaction, in writing along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are basing their claim, with the undersigned, within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If, no objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction deeming that apart from the said owners no one else has any manner of right or claim or interest in or over the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No.39, in the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority at Hosur Sarjapur Road Layout, Sector III, Bangalore, measuring East to West-15.24 Meters and North to South-24.39 Meters in all measuring 371.70 Square Meters, together with a house thereon comprised of ground, first and second floors, totally measuring 1009.76 Square Meters together with all the fittings, furniture, facilities and amenities connected therewith and attached thereto; and bounded on:

East by : Site No.38, West by : Site No.40, North by : Shop Site No.40, 41, & 10 Feet Wide tree plantation land, South by : Road.

Sd/- **K.P. Nataraj,** Advocate,
No.13, 2nd Floor, 4th Main Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
Ph. 080-22429750, 9886209950
email : vakil.nataraj@gmail.com

Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited

8B, Doshi Towers, 205, Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.Telephone: 044-4565 0003

Possession Notice Appendix IV (rule8 (1) of the SARFAESI Act

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Aptus Value Housing Finance India Ltd** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued **demand notice dated 26--09--2022 calling upon the borrowers 1.Mr. Srinivasa and 2.Mrs. Kumari to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for LAP - Construction in Loan Account No: APEEN0086939 of Rs. 9,04,127/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty Seven Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken "Symbolic Possession" of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule **on this 24th day of January, 2024.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Aptus Value Housing Finance India Ltd for an amount of **Rs. 8,66,017/-(Rupees Eight Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Seventeen Only) as on 09.01.2024** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:-

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing Site No.7A,Assessment No.19 .Situated at Doddabidarakallu Village,Ward No.40,BBMP Yeshavanthapura Hobli,Bangalore North Taluk, ,Bangalore North Taluk.Bangalore and measuring East to west Northern Side 15 feet Southern Side 11 feet and North to South 52 Feet.,Total Extent.676 Sq.Feet along with Constructed 18 Chadara House and **bounded On: Boundaries: North By:** Site No.7, **South By:** Road. **East By:** Road, **West By:** Road.

Date: 24.01.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Doddabidarakallu **Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 24.01.2024	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	30258300000500	1) Mrs. Mahadevamma Chandrappa, 2) Mr. Rupesh, 3) Mr. Santhosh Jadhav	17.08.2020	18.01.2024	**Rs.6,75,084.25** (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Eighty Four and Twenty Five Paisa Only)	**14.02.2024 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM**	**Rs.8,10,000/-** (Rupees Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	**Rs.81,000/-** (Rupees Eighty One Thousand Only)	**01.03.2024 @ 02:00 PM**	**29.02.2024, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071**

Details of Secured Assets: Schedule-A (Description of Immoveable Property): All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 Acres and 18 Guntas including the Kharab Land in Survey Nos.39/1, 39/2, 40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and **Bounded on the: East by:** Lands in Survey No.43, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South by:** Lands in Survey No.41.

Schedule-B (Property to be Conveyed): The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property mentioned above works out to 195 Square Feet.

Schedule-C (Apartment): Residential Apartment bearing No.B-301, Khatha No.549, Assessment No.T-8-B-301, Third Floor of Tower-8, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bath Room and a balcony, along with covered car parking space bearing No.8 in Tower No.8, in the Residential Apartment Complex Known as "JANAADHAR SHUBHA" construction on the Schedule 'A' Property, having a super built up area of 400 Sq.ft with vitrified flooring and the proportionate share in the common areas such as passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water, drainage and/or electrical conduct/s and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s and is **Bounded on: East by:** Open Space, **West by:** A-302, **North by:** Corridor, **South by:** T-007. The Super Built Area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each Apartment Unit and the proportionate areas covered by common wall/s, passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water drainage and/or electrical conduct/s, parks, and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s.

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'**. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Bhaskar Naidu Contact Number: 8142000809/ 8142000061. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / subbarao@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249), Mr. Umesh (Mob No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 29.01.2024, Place: Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED

FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923K12010PIC039179

Regd Office : IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office : Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai 400093, Maharashtra. **Phone No.:** 022-66211000, **Website :** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of possession
1	Subhashini M Umesh M Siddarajamma D Shivmallu K **/MHL00340005601/** Mysore	23/2, Property No. 23/2, Unique No. 150800303000100232,Tagarupura Village & GP, Kollegala Taluk, Cahamarajanagara District., Main Road, P.O. Chilukavadi, Chamrajnagar, Karnataka, Pin: 571442	10-11-2023 & Rs. 2,00,850/-	25-01-2024

Date: 29th January 2024
Place: KARNATAKA

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

HDFC BANK LIMITED

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sl. No	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	c	(d)	(f)
1.	**Mr. Bhat Vishwanath V (Borrower),** Shri Sadguru Constructions, **Designation:** Proprietor, **Mrs. Shilpa Viswanath Bhat (Co-Borrower)** **Both are residing at:** # 11, KHNO61/9, Sri Annapoorneshwari Layout, Kanakapura Main Road, Lakshmipura, Bengaluru 560082. **Also at:** Plot 982, House PID 3320140900, Vrushabhavathinagara, BSK 6th Stage, 4th T Block, Bengaluru 560079.	**Loan A/c No. (1) 680321872 Rs.22,42,809/- (2) 681458381 Rs. 97,801/- Total Amount Rs.23,40,610/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Forty Thousand Six Hundred Ten Only) as on 31.12.2023**	**19.01.2024** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.11.2023**	All that piece and parcel of property bearing BDA Vacant **Site No.982** (Nine Hundred and Eighty Two), having BDA Property ID No.3320140900, situated in the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore at Vrushabhavathinagara Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th T Block, Bangalore and Measuring: East to West : 6.00 (Six) Meters, North to South : 9.00 (Nine) Meters, **Totally measuring : 54.00 (Fifty Four)** Square Meters. Together with all rights, appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows: **East by :** Site No.981, **West by :** Site No.983, **North by :** Site No.1057/D, **South by :** Road. And any construction thereon present and future.
2	**Mrs. Saranya Ashok J (Borrower)** **Mr. Ashok Kumar M B (Co-Borrower)** **Both are residing at:** #G 402, Purva High Lands, Off Kanakapura Main Road, Mallasandra, Konanakunte, Bengaluru 560062. **Also at:** Flat-J-802, Floor-8th-Block-Jade, Maangalya Prosper Block 1-Subventi, S No 57/4, Anjanapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengalore South Taluk, Bangalore 560050. **Mr. Ashok Kumar M B, Designation:** Principal Software Engineer, **Department:** IT, **Employee No:** 1328, 3rd Floor, Indiqube Leela Galleria, 23, Old Airport Road, **Kodihalli** H.A.L II Stage H O,Bengaluru 560008.	**Loan A/c No: 638957997 Rs.76,57,914/- (Rupees Seventy Six Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Forteen Only) as on 31.12.2023**	**19.01.2024** **N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.12.2023**	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Survey No. 57/4** (Municipal No. 29/57/4), measuring 3 Acres 36 Guntas, situated at Anjanapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, and bounded on the: **East by :** Property of Sri. Krishnappa, presently Bangalore Development Authority; **West by :** Remaining portion of Survey No.57/4 of Krishnappa, presently owned by H.K.Shakunthala, presently Bangalore Development Authority; **North by :** Kanchi Varadappa's land and Hanumanthadevara inamthi land, Presently water drain and Bangalore Development Authority; **South by :** Private Property. **Schedule B:** **An 695 Sq. feet** of undivided share in the Schedule 'A' Property, more fully described in the Schedule 'B' hereto, and A Three Bedroom Apartment bearing **No. 802, 8th Floor, Block Jade,** to be constructed on the portion of the Schedule 'A' Property having a Carpet area of 1,618.15 Square Feet (PRM/KA/R ERA/1251/310/PR/180917/002010) forming part of the Project named and styled as **"MAA1NGLAY A PROSPER SIGNATURE BLOCK"** bounded on the: **East by :** Lobby, **West by :** Open Space, **North by :** Flat No. J 803, **South by :** Open Space.
3	**Mr. Anand (Borrower),** # 16/3/1, Lakshmi Nivas, Southend Road, Basavangudi, Bengaluru 560004 **Also at:** Societe Generale, **Designation:** Manager, **Department:** Oper, **Employee No:** 1937 7th Floor Voyager Building, ITPL Whitefield Road, Bengaluru, 560066. **Also at:** Flat No 404, Block-B, 3rd Floor, U Kay Namma Mane Apartment, Chudenapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru 560060.	**Loan A/c No: (1) 613973668 Rs.19,78,778/- (2)630952736 Rs. 5,24,615/- Total Amount Rs.25,03,393/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Three Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Three Only) as on 31.12.2023**	**19.01.2023** **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.10.2023**	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the land measuring **0-31 Guntas in the Sy.No.5/10** which is duly converted for residential purpose by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide his Official Memorandom No.ALN/(S)SR/(K.T)61/2005-06, Dated 07.10.2005, situated at Chudenapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore and presently the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Kengeri Sub-Division has assigned the land as property No.663/5/10, Chudenapura, Bangalore in all measuring 33,759 Sq.ft and bounded on the : **East :** Property belonging to Sri. Sathyanarayana, **West :** Road, **North :** Road, **South :** Property belonging to Ramachandrappa. **Schedule B:** Share Corresponding to **331 Sq.ft.,** of undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule A property to be conveyed to the purchaser herein. **Schedule C:** All that piece and parcel of Apartment bearing **Flat No.404, on the 3rd Floor of the Block- B,** in the Apartment Building Known as **"U –KAY NAMMA MANE"** constructed in the property described in the Schedule A property hereto, with a super built up area of **835 Sq.ft.,** (including half depth of common walls) with **Single Car Parking space** in Stilt/ basement, built with hollow blocks, RCC Roof, Aluminium Windows, Hardwood Door Frames with flush Shutters and Vitrified tiles flooring.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 29.01.2024
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

JM FINANCIAL

JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Formerly known as JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited)
Corporate Identification No.: U67190MH2007PLC174287
Regd. Office: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400 025, Te No.:022 66303030,Website: www.jmfinancialarc.com

POSSESSION NOTICE(For Immovable Property)[See rule 8 (1)]

Whereas,The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as "JMFARC"), acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC - Fabrics August 2018 I - Trust** (Loans of State Bank of India assigned to JMFARC), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated December 18, 2019 ("Demand Notice"), calling upon **Bombay Rayon Fashions Limited**, now being represented by the Liquidator (hereinafter referred to as the "Borrower") and **(i) Mr. Janardan Agrawal (ii) Mr. Prashant Agrawal (iii) Mr. Aman Agrawal (iv) Mrs. Vinita Agrawal (v) STI India Ltd (vi) Scotts Plantations Pvt Ltd (vii) Best United Lifestyles Pvt Ltd (viii) Reynold Shirting Ltd (ix) B. R. Machine Tools Pvt Ltd (x) Coppers Coin Realty Pvt Ltd** (collectively referred to as the "Guarantors"), to repay the amount as mentioned in the Demand Notice being **Rs. 22,51,74,10,115.65/- (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred FiftyOne Crores Seventy Four Lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred and Fifteen and Sixty Five paisa only)** as on November 30, 2019, with further interest, cost and expenses etc. applicable thereon payable until the date of final repayment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Demand Notice.

The Borrower and/or the Guarantors having failed to repay the outstanding amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on such date as has been mentioned hereinbelow.

The Borrower, Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the JMFARC for an amount of **Rs. 22,51,74,10,115.65/- (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Crores Seventy-Four Lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred and Fifteen and Sixty-Five paisa only)** as on November 30, 2019 and further interest and costs till the date of final repayment. The said properties are also secured for the additional loans provided by JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited to the Borrower.

The Borrower's and Guarantors' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

SL No.	Description of Immovable Property:	Date
1.	All that piece of leasehold land known as plot no. S-32(P), S-33 & S-34 in Sy. No. parts of 40 & 41 in the I Phase Apparel Park Industrial Area Doddaballapura, within the village limits of Arehalli Guddadahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District containing by admeasurements 9816.00 sq. mtrs. or thereabouts and bounded as follows:On or towards North by: Plot No. S-35, On or towards South by: Plot No. S-32(P), On or towards East by: 18M Wide KIADS Road No.4,On or towards West by: Plot No. S-18, S-19 & S-20,together with factory and other buildings, godowns, erections, structures constructed thereon and fixed plant and machinery installed or erected thereon or attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.or attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.	23.01.2024
2.	A Two Bedroom Apartment bearing No. 704 in the Seventh Floor in Block/Wing C5 of the residential complex known as Provident Welworth City having a super built up area of 845 sq. ft. situated in Kadatanamale Village, Hesarghatta Hobli, Bangalore	24.01.2024

Place: Bangalore

Sd/ -
Authorised Officer
JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd.,
acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC - Fabrics August 2018 I - Trust

JM FINANCIAL

JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Formerly known as JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited)
Corporate Identification No.: U67190MH2007PLC174287
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POSSESSION NOTICE(For Immovable Property)[See rule 8 (1)]

Whereas,The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as "JMFARC"), acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC - Fabrics August 2018 I - Trust (Loans of State Bank of India assigned to JMFARC), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated December 18, 2019 ("Demand Notice"), calling upon **Bombay Rayon Fashions Limited,** now being represented by the Liquidator (hereinafter referred to as the "Borrower") and **(i) Mr. Janardan Agrawal (ii) Mr. Prashant Agrawal (iii) Mr. Aman Agrawal (iv) Mrs. Vinita Agrawal (v) STI India Ltd (vi) Scotts Plantations Pvt Ltd (vii) Best United Lifestyles Pvt Ltd (viii) Reynold Shirting Ltd (ix) B. R. Machine Tools Pvt Ltd (x) Coppers Coin Realty Pvt Ltd** (collectively referred to as the "Guarantors"), to repay the amount as mentioned in the Demand Notice being **Rs. 22,51,74,10,115.65/- (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Crores Seventy-Four Lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred and Fifteen and Sixty-Five paisa only)** as on November 30, 2019, with further interest, cost and expenses etc. applicable thereon payable until the date of final repayment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Demand Notice.

The Borrower and/or the Guarantors having failed to repay the outstanding amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on such date as has been mentioned hereinbelow.

The Borrower, Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the JMFARC for an amount of **Rs. 22,51,74,10,115.65/- (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Crores SeventyFour Lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred and Fifteen and Sixty Five paisa only)** as on November 30, 2019 and further interest and costs till the date of final repayment. The said properties are also secured for the additional loans provided by JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited to the Borrower, the outstanding loans of various banks assigned to JMFARC (acting in the capacity as trustee of various trusts) and loans of Axis Bank.

The Borrower's and Guarantors' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

SL No.	Description of Immovable Property:	Date
1.	All that piece and parcel of leasehold land known as Plot No.: SW-52 in Sy No(s) Parts of 145, 147 & 148 in the Apparel Park II Phase Industrial Area Doddaballapura, within the village limits of Arehalliguddadahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District containing by admeasurements 38311.00 sq mtrs or thereabouts and bounded as follows:On or towards North by: 18.00 M Wide KIADB Road No. 8 (a),On or towards South by: CETP Phase II Land, On or towards East by: 30.00 Mtr Wide KIADB Road No. 1 & Private Land,On or towards West by: CETP & STP Phase - I,together with factory and other buildings, godowns, erections, structures constructed thereon and fixed plant and machinery installed or erected thereon or attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.	23.01.2024
2.	Guest House at Site bearing no.410, K.S. No. 145/123, situated in the private residential layout known as Jade Garden (in survey nos 193/2, 192/1 & 192/2 bearing K.S. no. 145, 145/1 and 145/2) in Sadahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore North.	24.01.2024
3.	All that piece of leasehold land known as Plot No. S-21 to S-32 (P) in Sy. No. 22, 29, 36, 38, 39 & 40 within the village limits of Arenalliguddadahalli Village, Kasasa Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore District containing by admeasurements 61067.10 sq mtrs or thereabouts and bounded as follows that is to say:On or towards North by: Plot no. S-20 & S-32 (P2),On or towards South by: 30.00 M wide KIADB Road No. 1, On or towards East by: 18.00 M wide KIADB Road No. 4, On or towards West by: 30.00 M wide KIADB Road No. 2,Together with factory and other buildings, godowns, erections, structures constructed thereon and fixed plant and machinery	24.01.2024

Place: Bangalore

Sd/ -
JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd.,
acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC - Fabrics August 2018 I - Trust

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client proposes to purchase the agricultural land bearing Survey No. 13/1 measuring 36 Guntas, situated in Thiruvaranga Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, which is described in the schedule hereunder and referred to as the "**Schedule Property**", belonging to G Krishnaiah son of Gullappa, residing at #67, Near Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Thiruvaranga Village, Thiruvaranga,Kalkunte, Bengaluru Rural - 560 067.

If any person has any claims, right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand in relation to the Schedule Property or any part thereof or, has executed any transactions or documents (whether registered of unregistered) with the owner or his predecessors in title of the Schedule Property, having the effect of creating an encumbrance thereon, or objecting to this sale transaction, are called upon to submit their statements, objections or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there is no objections or claims in this regard. Further, we would conclusively presume that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or encumbrance whatsoever existing on the Schedule Property or any part thereof and we will issue our opinion confirming that the owners have title in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Survey No. 13/1 measuring 36 Guntas situated at Thiruvaranga Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, bounded on;

East by : Venkataramanappa's Land;
West by : Tank of Thiruvaranga Village;
North by : Papa Reddy's Land; and
South by: Portion of Muniyappa's Land in the same Survey No. 13/1.

Date: 29.01.2024
Place: Bengaluru

Gerald Manoharan
Partner, **J.S.A.**
Level 3, Prestige Obelisk
3, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Ph. 080-43503 600/080-4350 3610
Email – gerald@jsalaw.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. SANDEEP VIJAYAKUMAR**, S/o. Late S VIJAYAKUMAR Residing at No. 104, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Mahalakshmi Layout Further Extension, Bangalore 560086 intends to purchase the under mentioned property morefully described in the schedule hereunder from its owner **Mr. MAKTHAR AHMED BAIG S/o. Mr. A. KHADER BAIG** presently residing in #18, 6th Cross, Jayamahal Extension Nandidurga Road, Bengaluru-560046 holding the physical possession of the schedule property. Therefore any Person/s having any manner of claim right, title or interest in & over the schedule property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, trust, pre-emption, agreement, decree, award, other disposition, otherwise claiming any other right of whatsoever nature are hereby requested to make the same known to the undersigned advocate in writing with supporting documents in proof of the same within 14 days from the date of publication hereof failing which any such claims made thereafter shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned and my client shall proceed to complete the registration of the schedule property as if there are no claims from whomsoever concerned.

PROPERTY SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the land and appurtenant house property bearing with present BBMP Municipal Corporation Katha Site No. 147 and old PID No. 16-11-147 (Old Site No.147 formed in a private layout of sites by the M/s National Housing Co-operative Housing Society Limited in land bearing Survey No.24, of Saneguruvanahalli Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk) Situated at National H.B.C.S Bangalore City of Present Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.75 Shankarmata, old BBMP Ward No. 16 - Kamalanagar Measuring East to West: 27'.0" + 32'.0"/2 (Twenty Seven Feet plus Thirty Two Feet over Two) and North to South: 48'.0" + 50'.0"/2 (Forty Eight Feet plus Fifty Feet over Two) Totally Measuring 1445.5 Square feet, and bounded on the East by: property No.148, West by: 30' Feet Wide Road, North by: Kirloskar Layout and South by: 40' Feet Road.

Sd/-
Chandrashekar Babu
Advocate, No. 1103, O. T. C Road (Near Hotel Pai Vihar), Bangalore 560002.
Date: 28.01.2024
Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby put to notice that my clients **Sri. M.Shashidhar, Sri. M.Krishna Prasad Mikkilineni, Sri. V.Vinay Babu, Sri. V.Abhinay, Smt. T.Rohini and Sri. K.Arjun** have terminated the **(1)** Joint Development Agreement dated 30/03/2009 registered as Document No. YAN-1-03136/2008-09 and **(2)** Supplementary Agreement dated 30/03/2015 and also cancelled the **(3)** General Power of Attorney dated 30/03/2009 registered as document No. YAN-4-00223-2008-09 and **(4)** General Power of Attorney dated 28/10/2010 registered as document No. YAN-4-00161/2010-11 and terminated the **(5)** Deed of Confirmation dated 28/10/2010 registered as document No. YAN-1-02754-2010-11, CD No. YAND342, Book No.1 registered before the Senior Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru entered with **M/s Arun Shelters Pvt. Ltd.**, in respect of the Schedule Property vide notice dated 04/11/2019 and proceedings are pending in C.M.P No.798/2022 before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. In view of the above developments, M/s Arun Shelters Pvt. Ltd., has no right, title and interest in the below mentioned Schedule Property or to execute any deed or deeds of any nature. However, M/s Arun Shelters Pvt. Ltd., representing to general public that above deeds are subsisting and also trying to deal with the third parties with respect to the Schedule Property. Therefore, my clients hereby call upon the public that not to enter into any kind of transaction including sale, Joint Development Agreement, MOU, lease, mortgage etc., with said M/s Arun Shelters Pvt. Ltd., in respect of the Schedule Property. If any person transacts with M/s Arun Shelters Pvt. Ltd., in respect of the Schedule Property, my clients shall not be responsible for any consequences and the same shall not binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the portion of converted land bearing **Sy. No.32** measuring 6 Acres 6 Guntas, situated at **Kenchenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** and same is bounded by :
East by : Talwari Inam Land; **West by :** Remaining portion of the land; **North by :** The road formed in the KEB Layout (formerly Harohalli boundary and the land belonging to Sri. Yelahanka Venkataramanappa) and; **South by :** The Layout formed by M/s. Escorts Ltd., (earlier the land belonging to Sri.Senthu Ramaraya).

G.V. Sudhakar, Advocate
No. 3, 4, 5 & 8, First Floor,
Abhayashrama Complex,
4th Cross, Wilson Garden,
Bangalore-560 027
Ph : 080-42194390, 9886359644

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IN THE COURT OF III ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-25)
O.S. No. 2518/2021

BETWEEN: Sri. H. KUMAR S/o Sri. Hiriannaiah, Aged about 63 Years. Presently R/at No.126, 7th Cross, 1st Phase, J.P. Nagar, Behind RV Dental College, Bengaluru-560078 **...Plaintiff**
AND: Sri. M.S. Hiriannaiah and another **...Defendants**

NOTICE TO PROPOSED DEFENDANT No.3 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

ARCHANA .A D/o H. Ashok Kumar @ Swamy, W/o Sanjeev Rao Palamand, Aged about 27 years, R/at No. 1358, 32nd E Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560041.
WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has filed the suit O.S. 2518/2021 for declaration to declare that the gift deed dated 06.12.2006 is null and void and for partition and separate possession of his share. In the said suit he has filed impleading application to implead you as third defendant. The case is now posted for hearing on 14.02.2024. Therefore you are hereby summoned to appear before Honourable Court on **14.02.2024 at 11 A.M.,** either in person or by a pleader duly instructed without fail, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 24th day of January 2024.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property bearing No.1358, 32nd E Cross, 4th T Block, BMC Ward No.58, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560041, consisting three floors, eac measuring 1114 sq.ft and car shed in the ground floor, and bounded on the:
East by : Property bearing Site No.1359,
West by : Property bearing Site No.1357,
North by : Road,
South by : Property bearing Site No.1309.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, Ass't Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
SRI. P. CHANDRASHEKAR,
No.212, 2nd Floor, Jalashambavi Complex, Kalidasa Marg Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009, Ph No.9916579132.

IN THE COURT OF THE 3RD ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT, BANGALORE
O.S. No. 1657/2023

BETWEEN: Smt. C. Amudha...PLAINTIFF
AND: Smt. Ashwathamma and another **...DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE

To, 1. Smt. Ashwathamma, W/o Sri. Nagaraj Reddy, Aged about 60 years, Residing at No. 1, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Mallappa Layout, Seegehalli, K.R. Puram, Bangalore-560036.
2. Smt. Malar Vizhi, Aged about 60 years, Residing at No. 4, Seegehalli, K.R. Puram, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560032 **...DEFENDANT**
Whereas, Smt. C. Amudha, W/o Sri. Ravi,Aged about 43 years, residing at No. 129/4, 5th Cross, Opposite to New Baldwin School, Dodda Banasawadi, Bangalore, have instituted a Suit bearing O.S. 1657/2023, pending on the files of the Hon'ble The 3rd Additional Senior Civil Judge at Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore, against you seeking for declaration and alternatively for recovery of money against the defendants of the suit schedule property mentioned therein, your are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on **22/02/2024 at 11.00 A.M,** to answer the same, failing which the Suit/application be disposed of ex-parte.

SCHEDULED PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential site bearing Site No. 4, Old No. 25/1, Khata No. 25/1/4, situated at Seegehalli, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ward no. 53, Previously under the jurisdiction of CMC Ward No. 14, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 15 feet, in all measuring 600 sq.ft, and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Remaining Portion of the property belong to Ashwathamma, **North by:** Remaining portion of the same Site No.4, **South by:** Site No.5.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 12/01/2024
By Order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge's Court, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff: **Y.A. NAGARAJ**
No. 1, 2nd Floor, 4th Main, Kumar Park West Road, Near Sree Subramanya Swamy Temple Arch, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that my client **VEERENDRA .P.** son of Ayyana Goud .P, aged about 35 years and **Mrs. PAVITRA .S,** daughter of Basaravaraj .S, aged about 29 years, both are presently residing at No. 840,First Floor, 27th Main, 1st Phase 2nd Stage, BTM Layout, Bengaluru-560 076. intend to purchase the property more fully described in the schedule herein under from **Mr. D.N. VENKATREDDY,** son of Narayanappa, residing at Sumangali Layout, Hirebidanur-561208, CHIKKABALLAPUR, who is the absolute owner of and in possession of the schedule property. If any person/s having any manner of right, tittle, interest, share or claim what so ever over the schedule property may file their objections in writing to the under signed within **7 (seven) days** from the date of this publication, along with documentary proof after that, we treat that, have no claims/ objections in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that part and parcel of Site bearing No.06, Assessment No.1/1, BBMP Khata No.84/412/1/1/6, Ward No.7 Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1200 sq.ft. situated at 1st "A" Main Road, 1st Cross, Venkategowda Layout, Hebbal-Kempapura, Bengaluru-560 024 and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** House property of Sri.Konda Reddy, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Open Space belonging to Private Property.

SRINIVASACHARY, Advocate
No.16/5, First Floor, Yogesh Building, 2nd Main, Marenahalli, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040. Mob: 98441 65982.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BANGALORE
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
O.A.NO.978/2022

BETWEEN:
Canara Bank, Yeshwanthpur, Gopal Complex, No.47, Subedarchatram Road, Model Colony, Dr.Ambedhkar Nagar, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru - 560 022. **....... APPLICANT**
AND:
Mr. Praveen Kumar & another ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT NOS. 1 & 2 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
1. Mr. Praveenkumar. A, S/o Mr. Arakeshm B, No.37, Arunodaya, 7th main, 7th cross, RPC Layout, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru Rural District - 560040.
2. Mrs. Varsha S, W/o Mr. Praveen Kumar A, R/a No.37, Arunodaya, 7th main, 7th cross, RPC Layout, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru Rural District - 560040.
WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,02,48,985.00 (Rupees One Crore Two Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five Only)** amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.
The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defense to show cause **on 25/04/2024 at 10.30 A.M.** as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this the **12th day of December 2023.**

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Asst. Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bengaluru

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नालको NALCO
National Aluminium Company Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
S&P Complex, Nalco Nagar, Angul-759145, Odisha, India
CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

RECRUITMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE POSTS FOR COAL MINES DIVISION

Adv. No.14240108 **Date:29.01.2024**

Applications are invited for the following posts: Jr.Foreman(Shot Firer/Blaster)-02 posts, Jr.Foreman(Overman)/Jr.Foreman(Mines)-18 posts, Jr.Foreman(Electrical)-05 posts, Jr.Foreman(Surveyor)-05 posts, Jr.Foreman(Civil)-02 posts, Laboratory Assistant Gr.III-02 posts, Dresser-Cum-First Aider-04 posts and Nurse Gr.III - 04 posts. For details, please visit '**career**' section in **www.nalcoindia.com.** The last date of online application submission is **18/02/2024.**

GM (IE)-Rectt.

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)
MSRDC
Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050
Tel.: 26517938, **E-Tender Portal:** https://mahatenders.gov.in
Website: www.msrdc.in **email :** coastalroad.msrdc@gmail.com
CIN No. U45200MH1996SGC101586

E-TENDER NOTICE

Construction of Anti-Erosion Bunds at various 11 locations in Dahanu / Vasai / Palghar Taluka of Palghar Dist in the state of Maharashtra.

Online digitally signed offers are invited by MSRDC from the interested parties for the above work for 18 calendar months including monsoon.

- The offer document can be viewed/downloaded through e-tendering portal, **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from 29.01.2024 to 20.02.2024.
- The last date of submission is 20.02.2024 upto 15.00 hrs.
- The pre-bid meeting will be held on 09.02.2024 at 15.00p.m. at MSRDC, Bandra, Mumbai - 50.
- Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee Rs 27,26,500/- plus GST (Refundable) and Tender fee of Rs. 3,000/- plus GST and original copy of Power of Attorney, Bidding Agreement, etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 20.02.2024 (at 14.00 Hrs. IST).
- Guidelines to download the Tender Document and online submission of bids can be downloaded from website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
- Right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever is reserved with MSRDC.

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,
MSRDC Ltd., Mumbai

Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)
Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office: Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore- 560043

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (Formerly Known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.) Bangalore,** Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated: 21-10-2022,** calling upon the **Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgagors, In Loan Account No's. BLR4237S . 1.Nirman International Public School,** Represented by its Authorized Signatory, #89, 90, 94 and 95, 7th Block, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Upkar Layout, Bangalore - 560091 **2. Nirman Educational Trust,** Represented by its Authorized Signatory, #89, 90, 94 and 95, 7th Block, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Upkar Layout, Bangalore - 560091 **3. Mrs. Mala Kumar,** W/o. Mohan Kumar #1851, 5th Main Road, 12th Cross, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560040 , **4. Mr. Harshith M. Dungawath,** S/o. Mohan Kumar #1851, 5th Main Road, 12th Cross, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560040 , To repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of **Rs.63,80,025/- ((Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Thousand Twenty Five Only)) as on 15-10-2022,** to repay agreed contractual rate of interest together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges etc, as details mentioned in the Demand Notice, till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

However the Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgagors herein above having failed to repay the full amount with interest/other charges, notice is hereby given to the Applicants/ Co-Applicants/Mortgagors in particular and to the public in general that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd, Bangalore** Branch has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this day of **23-01-2024.**

The Applicants/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd, Bangalore** for an amount of **Rs.71,74,096/- ((Rupees Seventy One Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Ninety Six Only)) as on 22-01-2024** with agreed contractual rate of interest, as mentioned herein above until the date of payment together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges. The Applicants/Co-Applicants/Mortgagors attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured Assets.

Description of the Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 58, Khata No. 58 is converted in Sy No. 28/1, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 2,400 Sq. ft Situated at Gidadakonenahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded as follows: East By: Sites No. 36, West By: Road, North By: Site No. 59, South By: Site No. 57.

Date : 29-01-2024
Place : Gidadakonenahalli Village

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Varthana Finance Private Limited

Form No.14: (See Regulation 33 (2))
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

TRC NO: 547/2019

Canara Bank, Kalidasa Layout Branch, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560 050 **....Certificate Holder Bank**
-- Versus --
SRI MANJUNATH D R AND ANOTHER ...Certified Debtor/Defendants

DEMAND NOTICE

1) Sri Manjunath D.R, S/o Rangaswamy D.H, R/at: No.1283, Padmashree Nilaya 3rd Floor, 4th Cross, Muneshwara Block, Deepanjalinagar Division, Bengaluru-560050.
Also at: Sri Manjunath D.R, S/o Rangaswamy D.H, No.548/B, 14th Main, 50 Feet Road, Hanumanthanagar Bengaluru-560050
2) Sri Somashekara R, S/o Rame Gowda, No.227, 7th Main, II 'C' Cross, BSK I Stage, Nagendra Block, Bengaluru-560050 **...Certified Debtor/Defendants**
In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA/527/2018** passed by the Ho'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore on **dtd. 6/15/2019** an amount of **Rs.11,76,651.57 (Rupees Eleven Lakh(s) Seventy Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty One and Paise Fifty Seven Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.
In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay All charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **23rd day of Oct, 2019.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- 2, BANGALORE.

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment". 3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

FORM NO.14 [See Regulation 33 (2)]
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I-BENGALURU
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

DRC NO: 223/2020

Syndicate Bank, Whitefield Branch, Immadahalli Layout, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560 066 **...Certificate Holder**
-- Versus --
M/s. Deepa Industries ...Certificate Debtor(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

To
M/s. Deepa Industries
Represented by its Proprietor, Mr. N.Jayaprakash, S/o. Mr. N.Chandrashekar Reddy, No.130/3E, Hanumanthe Gowda Building, Immadahalli Layout, Whitefield, Bengaluru -560 066.
In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA No.280/2019** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on **08/05/2020** for an amount of **Rs. 31,61,500/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Sixty One Thousand and Five Hundred Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:
a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.
b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **28 day of July 2020.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-I, DRT-I: BENGALURU

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

FORM NO.14 [See Regulation 33 (2)]
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I-BENGALURU
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

DRC NO: 880/2019

Syndicate Bank, Gandhinagar Branch, Syndicate Bank Building, Ground Floor, 2nd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009. **...Certificate Holder**
-- Versus --
M/s. Sabari Auto Comps (PVT) Ltd. & Others ...Certificate Debtor(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

To
1. M/s. Sabari Auto Comps (PVT) Ltd., Shed No.V-4, Office at: NGEF Industrial Estate, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560 048.
Present Address: No.43-D, Hoskote Industrial Area, Hoskote, Bengaluru Rural District.
Represented by its Directors:
1. Mr. Janeeth Kumar, 2. Mr. S.R.Keshav Kumar , 3. Mr. B.Hemanth Kumar
4. Mr. Surendra Chowdhary
2. Mr. T.Janeeth Kumar S/o. Late H.C.Thammaiah, Res at: C/o. Munirathnamma, No.7, Anjinappa Layout, Hebbal, Kempapura, Bengaluru - 560 024:
Present Address: No.61, Maruthi Nilaya, Panthara Palya, Mysore Road, Bengaluru- 560 039.
3. Mr.S.R.Keshav Kumar, S/o. S.B.Ramachandrappa, Res at : No.126, Sarakki Main Road, J.P. Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru - 560 076.
4. Mr. B.Hemanth Kumar, S/o. Late Byre Gowda, Res at: C/o. Munirathnamma, No.7, Anjinappa Layout, Hebbal, Kempapura, Bengaluru - 560 024.
Present Address: No.645, 2nd Main Road, HAF, Post Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024.
5. Mr. Surendra Chowdary, S/o. Mikkileni Gandhi, Res at: No.181/3, Manu Nilaya, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru-560 066,
Present Address: No.2, 1st Cross, Behind Old Panchavati School, Opposite Lane Kalamandir, Anand Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 037.
In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA No.1442/2016** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru **on 03/09/2019** an amount of **Rs. 1,25,22,682.26/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Two and Paisa Twenty Six Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:
a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.
b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **25th day of September 2019.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BENGALURU

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC -1, Basavanagudi, 13/1, 2nd Floor, Bull Temple Road,
Opp. Ramakrishna Mutt, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru- 560 004
Phone: 080- 25943343, Email:sbi.04483@sbi.co.in., mgrracpc.zoban@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

A/c. No.: LAP/40462667913/17781/HL/336

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) issued a Demand Notice dated **29.11.2022** calling upon the borrower: **Mrs. T. Saroja** W/o. H. L. Mahadev, residing at 4/1, 1st Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 019 and also working at V. S. Dental College and Hospital, K. R. Road, V. V. Puram, Bengaluru 560 004, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.33,30,216/-** (Rupees Thirty Three lakhs Thirty thousand Two hundred Sixteen only) as on 29.12.2022 and interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The present loan outstanding as on 22.01.2024 is **Rs.32,81,367.00** (Rupees thirty two lakh eighty one thousand three hundred sixty seven only) plus interest and other expenses due thereon.

The borrower has failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on **25.01.2024.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an aggregate amount of **Rs.32,81,367.00** (Rupees thirty two lakh eighty one thousand three hundred sixty seven only) as on 22.01.2024 + interest + expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the house property with 2 squares building, built in brick and martar, windows and doors made of matti and honne woods, with red oxide flooring bearing No. 73, in ward No. 54, BSK III Stage, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Gururaja Layout, Behind Vidyapeeta, Bengaluru - 560 028 measuring East to West 9.14 sq. meters, North to South 6.09 sq. meters standing in the name of Smt. T. Saroja W/o. H. L. Mahadev Bounded on East by: Road, West by : Site No. 76, North by : Site No. 74 and South by : Site No. 72.

Place:Bengaluru
Date: 25.01.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
RACPC Basavanagudi, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client intends to Purchase immovable Property Bearing site No.356.Katha No. 1782/999/263/ 207/ 365. Under the Limits of BBMP ward No. 191. Measuring **East** to **West** (63.5+62)/2 feet, **North** to **South** 42 feet Totally measuring 2635 Sq.feet formed in the Layout known as **VINAYAKA LAYOUT** Situated at Kudlu Village Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and the Property is bounded on
East By: Road, **West By:** Compound Wall , **North By:** Site No.364. **South By:** Site No.366 from its owner Sharadamma, who claims she is the absolute owner and having acquired the same through registered Gift Deed from her son Sri. G.H Parashuram on 07.07.2022 Hence if any Person/s has any kind of charge lien, adverse claims or objections over the same, they are advised to contact me with all the documentary proof in support of the claim to the below mentioned address within **Seven (07) Days** from the date of this Publication of notice, otherwise it will be construed that there are no charges or claims of whatsoever nature in respect of the below mentioned Scheduled Property and my client will proceed for the purchase of the afore said Property.

I.M. DEVAIAH & ASSOCIATES
Advocates
No.4, 1st Floor, Opp. Seshadripuram Post office, Seshadripuram
Bangalore -560020. (M) 9845105603
E-Mail: imdevaiah_advocate@yahoo.co.in
Place: Bangalore Date: 26-01-2024

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)
MSRDC
Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050
Tel.: 26517938, **E-Tender Portal:** https://mahatenders.gov.in
Website: www.msrdc.in **email :** coastalroad.msrdc@gmail.com
CIN No. U45200MH1996SGC101586

E-TENDER NOTICE

Construction of Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters at 27 various locations in Tal. - Kudal, Dodamarg, Sawantwadi, Vengurla, Malwan, Kankavli, Deogad & Vaibhavwadi in Sindhudurg District in Maharashtra.

Online digitally signed offers are invited by MSRDC from the interested parties for the above work for 15 calendar months including monsoon.

- The offer document can be viewed/downloaded through e-tendering portal, **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from 29.01.2024 to 12.02.2024.
- The last date of submission is 12.02.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
- The pre-bid meeting will be held on 05.02.2024 at 15:00 p.m. at MSRDC, Bandra, Mumbai - 50.
- Bid Security, in the form of Bank Guarantee Rs 11,20,500/- plus GST (Refundable) and Tender fee of Rs. 3,000/- plus GST and original copy of Power of Attorney, Bidding Agreement, etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 12.02.2024 (at 14:00 Hrs. IST).
- Guidelines to download the Tender Document and online submission of bids can be downloaded from website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
- Right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever is reserved with MSRDC.

Vice Chairman & Managing Director,
MSRDC Ltd., Mumbai

Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS INDULGE Your Guide to Spicy Living

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach of customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Friday 09-02-2024 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 080-27830505 **FEDGL0088**0004087, 0004088, 0004091, 0004103, 0004116 **Arakalgud** 08175-220780 **FEDGL0036**0010655, 0010656, 0010659, 0010685, 0010691, 0010696, 0010713, 0010721, 0010723, 0010749, 0010755 **Arasikere** 08174-299941 **FEDGL0414**0002457, 0002468, 0002477, 0003534 **B H Road** 8162277793 **FEDGL0103**0010434, 0010458, 0010459, 0010598, 0013309, 0013343, 0014601, 0014602 **BASAVESHWARA NAGAR** 080 41900282 **FEDGL0011**0010593 **BELGAUM** 0831 4201487 **FEDGL0136**0004994, 0005011, 0005013, 0005014, 0005017, 0005020, 0005028, 0005031, 0005037, 0005160, 0005247, 0005962, 0005970, 0006424, 0006425, 0006448, 0006640, 0006692, 0006701 **BELUR** 08177 222100 **FEDGL0159**0009394, 0009400, 0009406, 0009413, 0009414, 0009421, 0009434, 0009451, 0009453, 0010510, 0010541 **BOMMANAHALLI** 080 41500417 **FEDGL0014**0006780, 0006794, 0006795, 0006809, 0007680, 0007719, 0008022, **FEDBD0014**0000017 **BTM LAYOUT** 080-41312231 **FEDGL0003**0005797, 0005802, 0005813, 0006721 **BYADGI** 8375229022 **FEDGL0051**0009716, 0009728, 0009731, 0009753, 0009770, 0009800, 0009801, 0009802 **Caltex Circle** 8162277972 **FEDGL0102**0009773, 0009782, 0009784, 0009801, 0009832, 0009874, 0009875, 0009876, 0009877, 0009900, 0010858, 0011995, 0012974, 0013020, 0013066, 0013123 **Car Street Bellary** 8392276005 **FEDGL0092**0003434, 0003457, 0003470, 0003478 **CHANNAPATNA** 080 27256046 **FEDGL0176**0018220, 0018227, 0018245, 0018266, 0018281, 0018289, 0019355 **CHENRAYAPATNA** 08176 252477 **FEDGL0158**0020512, 0020513, 0020520, 0020525, 0020545, 0020551, 0020574, 0020576, 0020584, 0020598, 0021488, 0022139, 0022275, 0022861, 0022883, 0022917, 0022959, 0023000, 0023072, 0023107, **FEDDS0158**0000003 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 08262 228286 **FEDGL0021**0006996, 0007020, 0007022, 0007379 **DAVANGERE** 08192-252111 **FEDGL0229**0008876, 0009516, 0009784, 0009791, 0009799, **FEDDS0229**0000051 **dharwad** 0836 -2970229 **FEDGL0233**0005277, 0005278, 0005281, 0005282, 0005302, 0005303, 0005884 **Gadag** 08372-200075 **FEDGL0420**0002486, 0002518, 0002529, 0002555, 0002561, 0002564, 0002565, 0002571 **Gangavathi** 8533234018 **FEDGL0094**0004447, 0004459 **Gubbi** 8131222850 **FEDGL0046**0011183, 0011192, 0011229, 0011241, 0011253, 0011255, 0011260, 0011266, 0011271, 0011279, 0011283, 0013601 **Gundalpete** 08229-295128 **FEDGL0383**0003595, 0003604 **H D Kote** 08228-297033 **FEDGL0058**0008081, 0008098, 0008108 **Hagaribommanhalli** 08397-239003 **FEDGL0100**0008298, 0008311, 0008318, 0008324, 0008352, 0008375, 0008380, 0008411, 0009874, 0009919, 0010610, 0010629, 0010630, 0010647, 0010681, 0010703, 0010706, 0010728, 0010769 **HANSUR** 08222 250114 **FEDGL0162**0015962, 0015989, 0015990, 0016006, 0016013, 0016017, 0016019, 0016464, 0016955, 0016982 **Harappanahalli** 8398281429 **FEDGL0104**0008349, 0008460, 0009641 **HARIHAR** 08192-242865 **FEDGL0022**0013331, 0013333, 0013344, 0013356, 0013403 **HASSAN MARKET** 08172 235324 **FEDGL0157**0011581, 0011607, 0011629, 0011630, 0011634, 0012905, 0013960, 0014706, 0014888 **HAVERI** 8375232810 **FEDGL0181**0009767, 0009774, 0009787, 0009789, 0009791, 0009795, 0009802, 0009814, 0009815, 0009822, 0009823, 0010765 **HENNUR** 080-41979377 **FEDGL0015**0004325, 0004333, 0004346, 0004556, 0004919, 0004949 **Holenarsipura** 08175-273733 **FEDGL0059**0019093, 0019116, 0019129, 0019136, 0019139, 0019141, 0019144, 0019162, 0019182, 0019183, 0019196, 0019197, 0019198, 0019207, 0019234, 0020174, **FEDDS0059**0000049 **HOSA ROAD** 080-257444811 **FEDGL0002**0011524, 0011555, 0012965, 0013006, 0013014 **Hosadurga** 8199200023 **FEDGL0412**0002959, 0002971, 0003008, 0003015, 0003020, 0003021, 0004383 **Hospet** 08394-226899 **FEDGL0099**0006632, 0006642, 0006646, 0006667, 0006668, 0006670, 0007291, 0007336, 0007915, **FEDBD0099**0000084 **JEEVAN BHEEMA NAGAR** 080 41900283 **FEDGL0019**0003099, 0003547 **K R NAGAR** 08223 262045 **FEDGL0161**0010950, 0010951, 0011008, 0011014, 0011026, 0012122, 0012135, 0012156, 0012162 **KR Pete** 08230-262886 **FEDGL0063**0006923, 0006951, 0006956, 0006957, 0006964, 0006966, 0007969 **K R PURAM** 080 25610669 **FEDGL0012**0011963, 0011982, 0012995, 0013432, 0013441, 0013443, 0013458, 0013707, 0013709, 0013766, 0013794, 0013882, 0013883, 0013932, **FEDDS0012**0000102, **FEDBD0012**0000060 **K R ROAD** 8192272223 **FEDGL0037**0005234, 0005259, 0005261, 0005284, 0005912 **Kadur** 08267-200280 **FEDGL0487**0001961, 0001966, 0002000, 0002003, 0002010, 0002015, 0003035, 0003070 **Kampli** 08394-250822 **FEDGL0095**0006683, 0006693, 0006699, 0006709, 0006719, 0006723, 0006726, 0006729, 0006743, 0006754, 0008195, 0008196, 0008299, 0008330, 0008502, **FEDBD0095**0000027 **Kappogal Road Bellary** 08392-255005 **FEDGL0093**0003699, 0003708, 0003709, 0003713, 0004853, 0004854, 0004862, 0004863 **KOPIKAR ROAD** 8362362444 **FEDGL0155**0007168, 0007196, 0007201, 0007973, 0008266 **Koppal** 8539200090 **FEDGL0403**0001554, 0001608 **Kudligi** 08391-299920 **FEDGL0404**0002808, 0002809, 0002823, 0002824, 0002843, 0002850, 0002861, 0002868, 0004417, 0004485, 0004490, 0004670, 0005230, 0005283, 0005289, 0005368, **FEDBD0404**0000042, 0000099, 0000103 **KUnigal** 08162-220155 **FEDGL0121**0007200, 0007222, 0007223, 0007227, 0007231, 0007270, 0008956 **Laxmeshwara** 8487200005 **FEDGL0407**0001265, 0001284 **Madhugiri** 8137200547 **FEDGL0393**0003782, 0003801, 0003847, 0003859, 0003863, 0003869, 0003895, 0003920, 0006874 **Malavalli** 08321-244588 **FEDGL0365**0004026, 0005121 **Malebennur** 08192-299566 **FEDGL0062**0010255, 0010260, 0010277, 0010284, 0010310, 0011937 **MANDIMOHALLA** 8214264270 **FEDGL0174**0008572, 0009603, 0010080 **MANDYA** 08232 239585 **FEDGL0163**0007508 **Mundargi** 08371-295011 **FEDGL0064**0007138, 0007150, 0007153, 0007166, 0007169, 0007173, 0007176, 0007177, 0007189, 0007205, 0007212, 0007213, 0008526, 0008553 **NANJANGODE** 08221 223326 **FEDGL0160**0012418, 0012429, 0012445, 0012449, 0012477, 0012502, 0012511, 0012515, 0013871 **Nelamangala** 08029911005 **FEDGL0392**0001706, 0001707, 0001731, 0002139, 0002568 **Pavagada** 08136-295608 **FEDGL0377**0005943, 0005950, 0005967, 0005974, 0006021, 0006041, 0006046, 0007309, 0007949, 0008042, 0008500, 0008842, 0008948, 0009429 **Periapatna** 08223-297589 **FEDGL0044**0007212, 0007219, 0007229, 0007243, 0007246, 0007267, 0007274, 0007909, 0008544, 0008632, 0008670, 0009271, 0009336, 0009337, 0009343 **RAJAJI NAGAR** 080 41902910 **FEDGL0004**0003934 **Ramamurthy Nagar** 8041225616 **FEDGL0035**0001989 **RAMANAGARA** 080 27275627 **FEDGL0180**0020769, 0020771, 0020797, 0020806, 0020811, 0020836, 0020846, 0020848, 0020862, 0020873, 0020904, 0020906, 0020915, 0023016, 0023473, 0023944, 0023945, 0024011, **FEDDS0180**0000160 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 8214253754 **FEDGL0173**0006758, 0007228, 0007429, 0007430, 0007432, 0007487, 0007495, 0007500 **RANEBENNUR** 08373 - 297397 **FEDGL0232**0009734, 0009747, 0009750, 0009753, 0009757, 0009766, 0009770, 0009779, 0009785, 0009787 **SHIMOGA** 081 23115765 **FEDGL0183**0009942, 0009945, 0009949, 0009950, 0009961, 0009968 **Sindhanur** 08535-200110,8880890891 FEDGL0461, 0001636, 0001637, 0001644, 0001661, 0001663, 0002543, 0002568, 0002585, 0002611 **Sira** 08135-295620 **FEDGL0376**0005671, 0005688, 0005701, 0005711, 0005737, 0005759, 0005763, 0007791, 0008490, 0008932, 0008933, 0008970, 0009000, **FEDDS0376**0000015 **SIRSI** 08384-223365 **FEDGL0193**0006793, 0006794, 0006796, 0006801, 0006805, 0006806, 0006811, 0006813, 0006816, 0006819, 0006824, 0006831 **Srinivasa Nagar** 080-26693369 **FEDGL0089**0004571, 0004661 **Tarikere** 08261-200233 **FEDGL0415**0002078, 0002088, 0002095, 0002098, 0002132, 0002140, 0002144, 0002148 **Tiptur** 8134252402 **FEDGL0047**0007996, 0008006, 0008035, 0008052, 0008055, 0008063, 0008064, 0008082, 0008508, 0008986, 0009514, 0009560 **Turuvekere** 8139295735 **FEDGL0386**0003734, 0003778, 0003784, 0003789, 0003796 **Yeshwantpur** 8041225684 **FEDGL0034**0004171, 0004174, 0004175, 0005847, 0005889

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 08-02-2024 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 29-01-2024
Place : Karnataka

For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98,Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV,Gurgaon-122015.(Haryana) and **Branch Office at:-"ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025 "** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Auhorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website:www.iiflonehome.com

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower (s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
1 Mr. Sunil Kumar Tiwari 2. Mrs. Lata Mishra (Prospect No. IL10014145)	22-Dec-2022 Rs. 22,84,944/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Four Only) **Bid Increase Amount** Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Flat No. A 402, 4th Floor, 16th Tower, admeasuring 317.2 Sq. Ft. (Land Area) & 462 Sq. Ft. (Carpet Area) & 656 Sq. Ft. (Super Built Up Area), Janaadhar Shubha Phase, M Medehalli Village, Anekal Taluk Bangalore , Banga, Karnataka, India-562107.	26-Aug-2023 **Total Outstanding As On Date 03-Jan-2024** Rs. 21,72,248/- (RupeesTwenty One Lakh Seventy TwoThousand Two Hundred Forty Eight Only)	Rs.14,00,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** Rs. 1,40,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Thousand Only)

Date of Inspection of property	EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E-Auction
09-Feb-2024 1100 hrs -1400 hrs	12-Feb-2024 till 5 pm.	14-Feb-2024 1100 hrs.-1300 hrs.

Mode Of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www.iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.
Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction.
For balance payment, upon successful bid, has to pay through RTGS/NEFT. The accounts details are as follows: a) Name of the Account:- IIFL Home Finance Ltd., b) Name of the Bank:- Standard Chartered Bank, c) Account No:-9902879xxxxx followed by Prospect Number, d) IFSC Code:- SCBL0036001, e) Bank Address: Standard Chartered Bank, 90 M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider **https://www.iiflonehome.com**, well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit **25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours** of the acceptance of bid price by the AO **and** the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflonehome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
6. **For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- auction.hl@iifl.com, Support Helpline Numbers:@1800 2672 499**
7. **For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- auction.hl@iifl.com**
8. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
9. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
10. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
11. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE RULE 9 SUB RULE (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place:- Bangalore Rural , Date: 29-Jan-2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.**

EDITORIAL

Education is the master and politics is its servant

Zakir Hussain

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BLOW TO INDIA BLOC AS CHAMELEON NITISH CHANGES COLOUR AGAIN

HE is the quintessential potato in the curry that cannot be ignored. You can change other ingredients to add variety to the dish but not the tuberous vegetable. He effortlessly blended with the extreme left and the right - and others thrown in between—at various points in his long career to stay as chief minister. A new sabzi was cooked in Bihar's political kitchen on Sunday with JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar walking out of the opposition INDIA bloc he helped galvanise and going back to the BJP alliance he dissed and ditched over a year ago. In the process, he lost and regained his chief ministerial job within a few hours. He is now a nine-time CM. The curry was on slow fire ever since INDIA leaders Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal tossed up the idea of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as the face of the grouping, burying the ambition of Nitish to become the prime ministerial candidate of the opposition for good. Bihar is where the opposition looked rock solid with the potential of arresting the NDA sweep in the Lok Sabha polls and significantly denting its overall tally. Yet, INDIA's leadership did not have the collective wisdom of ring-fencing its weakest link by massaging Nitish's fickle ego to keep the bloc stable.

RJD chief Lalu Yadav ought to personally hold himself responsible for the vertical split in the Bihar grand alliance. He ignored JD(U) feelers to promote Nitish in INDIA while obliquely nudging the CM to vacate the chair for his son Tejashwi. The new alliance Nitish heads is just above the halfway mark of 122 in the 243-member assembly. For all his Machiavellian reputation, Lalu failed to break into the JD(U) despite cultivating some of its leaders like Lalan Singh. With judicial summons dangling over the Lalu family's head in the railways jobs-for-land scam, for them it's present tense.

As for Nitish, he is the ultimate opportunist who personifies politics as the art of the possible. His secular credentials are mud and he may have just entered the twilight of his political career. The buzz about the deal is his possible accommodation in a glorified constitutional position at the Centre after the 2025 assembly polls so as to give the BJP a shot at CM-ship. His hold over the economically backward classes vote bank continues to be considerable, hence his utility for the BJP in the electoral scheme of things.

MANUFACTURING SECTOR NEEDS GROWTH PUSH

THE government's decision to confer Padma Bhushan on Young Liu, the chief executive officer of Foxconn, is an acknowledgment of the Taiwan-based company's efforts to boost India's Make in India initiative. And, Foxconn's continued commitment to India is also testament to the government's efforts towards making India a manufacturing hub.

The contribution of the manufacturing sector to the GDP has been stagnant at 15-17% for decades. No amounts of tax rebates or other incentives have been able to increase the manufacturing pie. The Narendra Modi government's latest attempt at production-linked incentives (PLI) to manufacturing firms, however, seems to be working. The boost to mobile manufacturing in the country in the past couple of years is a direct result of the PLI scheme. Smartphone exports reached $11 billion in 2022-23 from almost nothing in the previous year. As of November 2023, smartphone exports crossed $9 billion with a few months left for 2023-24 to close the books. Clearly, the PLI scheme has taken off well for smartphone manufacturing, even if people may question the level of value addition Indian mobile manufacturers are doing in the country. There are other areas like telecom instruments —where exports rose from $885 million in 2018-19 to $13 billion in 2022-23—which have benefited from the PLI Scheme. However, the longer-term impact of the scheme on other sectors (14 so far) would only be evident in the next 2-3 years.

The government has also used other measures, such as quality control and tariff barriers, to boost local manufacturing. The toy sector has benefited from both these measures with exports surging from $96 million to $326 million in 2022-23. Defence sector manufacturing is also taking wings on the back of government policies such as local procurement and opening up of defence corridors. Defence sector exports jumped from ₹700 crore in 2014-15 to ₹16,000 crore in 2022-23. While there have been a few success stories of the current government's efforts to boost the manufacturing ecosystem in the country, there is still a lot of ground left to cover. Despite all the spirited efforts by the government, manufacturing's value addition as a percentage of the GDP remains below the long-term average of 15-16%. As per the advance estimates for FY24, the manufacturing GVA as a percentage of nominal GDP is below 13% (12.8%). A few success stories should not make us lose sight of the target of increasing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 20% if not 25%.

QUICK TAKE

LESSON FROM A BIRYANI BACKDOWN

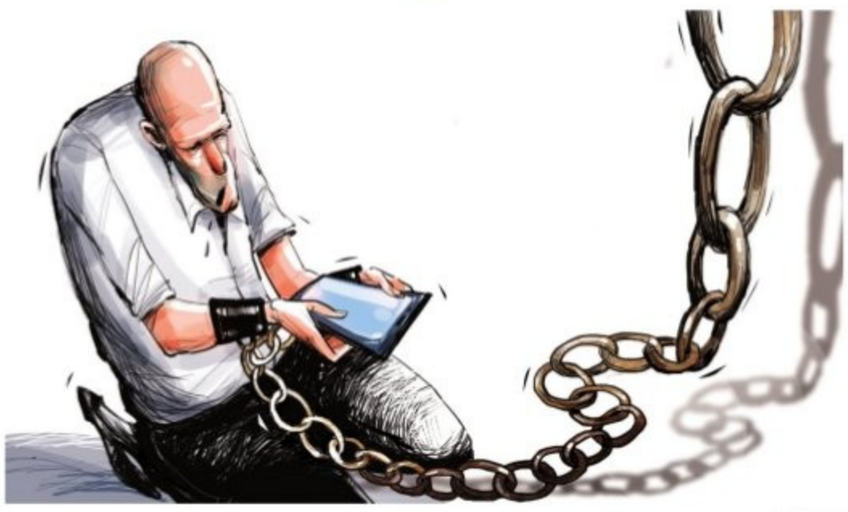
MANY worthies have asked the worth of a life. To a 40-year-old father of one in Kolkata, the answer seems to be a plate of biryani and a job. Last week, this man stopped his two-wheeler on a busy road, made an excuse to his daughter, climbed a bridge and threatened to jump off. Cops and firemen arrived with members of a disaster management team. They got a background from the daughter and promised him some biryani and a job. The long-and-short term reward combo worked and the man climbed down. It is essential to train more policemen in talking to those dangerously distraught.

With elections round the corner, President Ranil Wickremesinghe has pushed the controversial Online Safety Bill to regulate online content

LANKA'S LAW SEEKS TO CRIMINALISE POLITICAL DISSENT

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer. Founder and director of Center for Investigative Reporting



SOURAV ROY

THE Rajapaksas of Sri Lanka were known for their curb and control tactics. They had multiple tools in their political arsenal to keep the population under control. During Mahinda Rajapaksa's 10 year-rule, the island's human rights record was a national embarrassment.

His brother Gotabaya who was the powerful defence secretary at the time swore that Sri Lanka would not see a right to information law during his tenure. He kept his word. The RTI law was enacted only after the 2015 surprise defeat of Mahinda Rajapaksa. Majoritarian to the core, at least they did not pretend to be political liberals who couldn't care less for western preaching of human rights. They ruled as if world opinion was a mild irritant as long as China stood with them.

The cult worship of the Hambantota ruling clan may be cured since 2022, and today, the Rajapaksas are deeply unpopular and faulted for the current economic crisis. The replacement president Ranil Wickremesinghe has worked to placate multilateral lending agencies to stand by Sri Lanka in a critical moment and secured a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Regrettably, (though not surprisingly), this self-declared political liberal has adopted an operational style inked by the Rajapaksas. He has moved swiftly and surely to control dissent, first offline, terming it as a necessity to restore law and order, and now to control the online space.

It was Wickremesinghe who pushed the RTI law as prime minister in the Maithripala Sirisena administration. Yet he wasted no time in pushing a draconian law to control online expression, the Online Safety Bill (OSB) carried in parliament with a thumping majority on January 25. A day later, on January 26, he prorogued parliament for two weeks, thwarting any further discussions on the controversial bill.

The bill was rushed through parliament. A total of 52 cases challenged it before the Supreme Court for snuffing out people's fundamental freedoms coupled with protests.

Wickremesinghe is considered an extension of Rajapaksas' political interests with his survival tied to the support of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP). The new law is seen as an instrument serving twin purposes: a vengeful effort to crush political dissenters who campaigned for Rajapaksa's ouster to end family rule and a legal tool to bury dissent in an important election year. The bill will soon be certified by the Parliament Speaker, making it law, and the OSB will be the new tool in the political arsenal to command online silence, especially in this election year.

Now that it's *fait accompli,* the government's argument has been that the OSB is meant to combat cyber-crimes and protect vulnerable sections of society. The new Act offers broad powers to an online safety commission which can determine what constitutes "prohibitive statements" and make recommendations to internet service providers to remove such content and disable access of those considered offenders. There is a provision to hold service providers such as Google, Facebook accountable for the content posted on their platforms.

President Wickremesinghe and the father of the obnoxious bill, Public Security Minister Tiran Alles have claimed the law is not an attempt to curb media freedom but a move to prevent cybercrimes, data theft and digital fraud. Former president Maithripala Sirisena was heard speaking in a self-congratulatory tone that he had to shut down social media for a week to contain a violent situation fuelled by social media.

But Sri Lanka's current reality is different. It is teetering on the brink of economic collapse. The IMF may have offered a lifeline but a real roadmap for economic recovery is yet to emerge. There can be no bigger priority for Sri Lanka than to put the heads together to overcome the current financial crisis and rebuild an economy in shambles. This requires all party consensus and immense effort. But sadly, the politicians are eyeing the next election, after failing to run their country and pushing it to despair.

It's possibly a South Asian political malaise that our formula of governance is to rule with an iron fist and invariably control fundamental freedoms to secure public compliance. Wickremesinghe too follows this model. He cracked his whip the moment he assumed office and crushed legitimate dissent under offering 'normalcy' to the country. He has remained consistent in wiping out dissent and using force to crack down on protesters. He has moved from offline to online with the OSB, practically criminalising dissenting online expression, giving rise to governance concerns and impacting the economic front.

Sri Lanka is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and freedom of expression is a constitutionally protected fundamental right. Yet, Sri Lanka has a long history of cracking down on protests and free speech. Naturally, the OSB has drawn both local and international condemnation.

In response, the Asia Internet Coalition a group of social media companies have warned of the possibility of terminating all communication and collaborative links with the island including Meta, YouTube, Google and X. This may result in the tech companies ending their cooperation with the Computer Crime Division of police, CERT, telecommunication regulatory commission, and President's office, impacting ongoing investigations into cybercrimes.

Besides, there would be repercussions for Sri Lanka's digital economy while the country is striving to make an economic comeback. It is necessary that Sri Lanka addresses the false and harmful content online. Expressing dissent should not be an opportunity to cause harm.

Come election time, despite the OSB and other deterrent laws, closed groups, covert influencer operations, fake accounts and disinformation campaigns will reign. Many such operations, political operatives, disinformants-for-hire, campaigns to tarnish opponents or drive public anger will run at the behest of politicians. If the online space is hateful, it is only a reflection of our reality.

There is every chance that OSB is being used to crush political dissent. Perhaps it is a quirk of fate that it was Wickremesinghe himself who earlier opposed the move to regulate online free speech and lauded the internet revolution for democratising the information ecosystem by making information sharing inclusive and engaging.

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(Views are personal)

HOW A SUFI POET TETHERED DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THIS week I would like to retell stories about the Punjabi Sufi Bulle Shah (1680-1735), also called Bulleya and Bulla. The Qadiri Sufis of the old Punjab were renowned for their philosophical studies. Their worldview profoundly impacted the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh's efforts at religious syncretism in his book *Majma ul Bahrain*, the 'Mingling of Oceans'. And it was a Qadiri Sufi, Shah Inayat, who was Bulle Shah's *pir* or spiritual guide.

Shah Inayat Qadiri, was a spiritual descendant of Muhammed Ghaus of Gwalior, who introduced yoga to Sufism in the 16th century, highlighting points of contact. Shah Inayat Qaditi worked with outward simplicity as an *arain* or market gardener. In a work attributed to him called 'Dastur-ul-Amal', he is said to have vividly described the Hindu paths to moksha. Shah Inayat Qadiri is said to have written many books, which were later lost in a fire that broke out in the house of his descendants during the troubled times following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Bulle Shah, with newly-initiated zeal, spoke and sang openly of the unity underlying Hinduism and Islam. But since the political situation of that era was against liberal Sufis—as in truly liberal, not 'Westernised anti-Hindu' as widely understood today - Shah Inayat Qadiri forbade him to speak of it. He, himself, practised *haqiqat*, a Sufi's spiritual reality, under the cover of *tariqat*, the established path, meaning orthodox Islam.

Bulle Shah's insistence on outspoken liberalism upset his teacher who barred him from his presence. Knowing however of Shah Inayat Qadiri's love of music and dance, Bulle Shah began to learn these arts from a dancing girl and one day, when he was proficient enough, began to sing and dance, dressed as woman, outside a place his teacher had entered. Attracted by the sound, Shah Inayat Qadiri emerged and Bulle Shah conveyed in verse his wish for reconciliation with his beloved guru. The teacher, a true liberal at heart, recognised him and asked if he was 'Bulla'.

"Not 'Bulla', but 'Bhoola' (the erring one)", said the pupil penitently and was promptly restored to his teacher's good graces, remaining with him until he passed away.

It is fascinating how Bulle Shah's verses mark his progress from being one to becoming one-with- the-One. He was born into a noble family of Syeds at Qasur, now in Pakistan. His early life coincided with the last harsh years of the reign of Aurangzeb who died in 1707, leaving his empire in every kind of ferment, especially religious. As a child, Bulla was prone to long periods of contemplation, which worried his family. At the *madrassa*, the *moulvi* began to teach Bulla's class of little boys the alphabet. While the others rapidly progressed, Bulla stayed lost in contemplation of *'alif* (A). Within its pure, upstanding line, he said, he beheld the Creator and all creation. This may well be a piece of later folklore, but it links culturally with the teaching in Indian classical music that all music is contained within the first note, *Sa*.

ETGOOG

Bulle Shah's poetry progressed from being one to becoming one-with- the-One. His work always talked about unity between Hinduism and Islam. He sang: 'Not Hindu, not Muslim, let us sit to spin without religious pride...'

Tormented by inchoate spiritual longings while nagged by his anxious family to live out his life as a nobleman, Bulla went for a long ride and chanced upon his spiritual master in the oddest place, a kitchen garden. As Bulla knelt before him in an ecstasy of recognition, Inayat Qadiri spoke as he worked: "*Bulleya, Rab da kee paana? Idhron putna te odhar laana*". 'Bulleya, do you seek God? Put your soul from here (below) to there (on high)'.

Bulla's noble family was outraged that he should lay his heart at the feet of a 'lowly' arain, but he was steadfast in his resolve. He adopted the local Kaafi style of Sufi devotional singing. (There is also a raga called 'Kaafi', originating from folk music. Ustad Bismillah Khan played it on the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 1947).

Bulla's poetry drew imagery from Waris Shah's Punjabi love story of Heer-Ranjha, allegorising God as Ranjha and himself as Heer, pining for the beloved. It linked with Krishna-bhakti, where the love of Radha for Krishna was a high allegory for the human's longing for God, and with Advaita philosophy, the longing of the jivatma or individual soul to merge in the Paramatma, the Supersoul.

Bulla's poetry stayed within the folkways of Punjabi dargah-mela culture until 1973 and Raj Kapoor's film *Bobby*. The singer, Narendra Chanchal, raised in a devout Punjabi family, shared Bulla's syncretic religious approach in the song *Beshaq mandir-masjid toro/ Bulle Shah ae kendah/ Par pyaar bhara dil na toro/ Is dil mein dilbar rehnda*.

Bulla's original verse goes: '*Masjid dhaade, mandir dhaade/ Dhaade jo kuchh dhainda/ Ik kisi da dil na dhaanvin/ Rab dilaan vich rehnda*', meaning, 'Break the mosque and break the temple/ Break what can be broken/ But do not break the human heart/ Within which God abides.' Today this poignant verse seems to urge a deeper nationhood through harmonising the God-seeking impulses of both Sanatana Dharma and Islam.

As a Sufi seeker, Bulle Shah had to resist the protests of the orthodoxy, given the religiously inflammable 17th-18th centuries. He sang: '*Mullah, maar na boliyaan/ Sannu apna yaar rijhaavan de/ Kanjri baniyaan meri ijjat na ghat di/ Mujhe nachke yaar manaavande*', meaning, 'Mullah, call me not to prayer/ Let me please my Beloved/ Though I become a woman of the streets, I lose no honour/ Let me dance for his pleasure.'

Calling the communities together, he sang in the poem *Hindu na nahin Mussalman*: 'Not Hindu, not Muslim, let us sit to spin without religious pride/ Not Sunni, not Shia, I take the path of the One'.

The reward of unity was priceless and its secret lay in loving surrender to the One. Only then could the seeker proclaim triumphantly as Bulle Shah eventually did: *'Saiyyon hun sajjan mein paiyo/ Har-har de vichh samaiyo*', meaning, 'O Friends, I have found the Beloved now: He pervades each one of us!'

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Inclusive trend

Ref: *New republic of inclusive majoritarianism* (Jan 28). I agree with this article discussing the consecration of the Ram Mandir. It points the spiritual significance of the event and its impact on Indian society. I concur that India is witnessing a shift to positive majoritarianism. Recent examples, such as diverse participation in the temple ceremony, reflect this inclusive trend.
Megha Kukreti, Bengaluru

Elite discussions

Ref: *New republic of inclusive majoritarianism* (Jan 28) Many Hindus have supported the consecration of Ram temple. The manner in which Prana pratishtha has invoked a sense of joy among people is proof that Ram is accepted as a hero. Devotees are least bothered about the politics that surround Ram temple, leaving it, as author observes, to drawing room discussions of the elite.
G Nataraja Perumal, Tenkasi

Solving issues

Ref: *Governor's protest* (Jan 28). Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's protest against the police's alleged failure to prevent the Students' Federation of India (SFI) black flag demonstration has re-kindled the rift between the governor and the Kerala CM. The governor and the CM should set aside their differences in the interest of solving problems.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Informative article

Ref: *UN Court rebuke apart, would genocide charges against Israel stick?* (Jan 28). This article was informative. The collation of the definition of genocide and correlation of the 2019 Gambia vs Myanmar conflict vis-à-vis the ongoing bloodshed in the Gaza Strip is edifying. It throws light on the many aspects of International court of justice.
R Sampath, Chennai

Proactive measures

Ref: *Why rape and kidnapping are the latest avatars of cybercrime* (Jan 28). I write to express my deep concern regarding the rise in cyber kidnapping and cyber rape cases, as highlighted in the article on Jamtara. These trends, demand immediate attention and proactive measures from law enforcement agencies and cybersecurity authorities.
Humaira Haani A, email

Healthier lifestyle

Ref: *From the app to the table* (Jan 28). The 2023 survey on Indian food delivery apps unveils a trend among individuals aged 25 -34. They use food delivery apps once or twice a week, due to their hectic lifestyles. While convenience is a factor, it's important not to neglect simple home cooked meals.
Angarika Prasad, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
India strides towards a carbon-free, green future, investing in a sustainable technology-driven economy to forge a path toward a zero-carbon footprint.

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
It is true that when calamity comes, it scares only the cowards. The brave men do not get distracted, they do not lose patience even for a single moment.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
BJP was never as weak during its lifetime as it is today. There can be no greater defeat than someone not believing in you as a person.

How BJP worked for Nitish's 'ghar wapsi'

Assembly poll victory in three Hindi states late last year propelled saffron camp to launch 'final' action plan in Bihar

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP's top secret 'Mission-Bihar-2024' to get Nitish Kumar to swear in so that the National Democratic Alliance is back to rule the state — six days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first mega rally of the year in Bihar — was crafted about a year back.

BJP sources told this newspaper that the execution of the plan gathered pace after victories in the three Hindi heartland states, namely Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

"A team of senior BJP leaders worked meticulously while keeping confidentiality. Senior JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha, who was also close to late Arun Jaitley and currently considered a close confidante of Nitish Kumar, remained in touch with the BJP as the party got cracking on the plan," said a senior BJP leader. "It took about 45 days for the plan to come to fruition," he said.

Once the BJP leadership green-lighted the plan, Jha, as new deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary said on Sunday, moved ahead with the proposal for Nitish Kumar's 'ghar vapasi'. The saffron party's Mission Bihar, which was planned five months after Nitish deserted NDA, had a well-crafted script in which BJP kept mounting attacks on Nitish and RJD chief Lalu Prasad over governance issues almost throughout the year.

"We waited for the JD(U) initiative. When Lalu asked Rahul Gandhi during a meeting of the Opposition to get married and that he along with others would like to be his 'baratis', Nitish Kumar, a seasoned politician, sensed Lalu's intention and turned cautious," said a BJP source.

This was the first lead for BJP to step up the Mission Bihar momentum, knowing well that Nitish won't swallow a small act of insult to what he thinks is right, said a Bihar BJP leader. The BJP and other JD(U) leaders continued negotiations. The second positive signal that came from the Nitish side was when Amit Shah went to Patna and chaired the 26th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council on December 10. CM Nitish Kumar from the Grand Alliance cordially attended the meeting.

BJP knows Nitish Kumar continues to carry huge influence among 36% of the EBCs in the state. This is the vote share the BJP looked at as a part of its electoral strategy for the LS polls. Working silently, the Nitish's 'ghar-wapasi' has rejuvenated the BJP's state unit ahead of the LS polls. "The bonhomie between PM Modi and the CM will be re-exhibited before the people at the rally on February 4 in West Champaran," said a JD(U) leader.

Not that RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his former deputy CM could not sense the game-plans, especially with the change of JD(U) president from Rajiv Ranjan Singh to Nitish Kumar. "With the passage of days, the entire game plan became clearer; the Bharat Ratna to Karpoori Thakur was a big hint. Nitish openly hailed the decision and thanked PM Modi in a tweet. The RJD leaders immediately shared their apprehension about Kumar's somersault with Congress chief Kharge," said a BJP source.

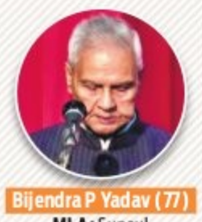
Sources said Nitish waited until the Ayodhya consecration. After getting inputs from various agencies including his party, it became clear to him that PM Modi has created a wave across the country and that a "boycott" of the event by the Opposition was a blunder.

"Kumar started exhibiting his annoyance with RJD. First, he removed three ministers of 'RJD quota,' including one who had passed a controversial statement on the Ramcharitmanas. The final decision for Nitish's in-principle return to the NDA came on January 15. Days later, he made up his mind and conveyed it through his special emissary to the BJP. Sources said Nitush may get a national responsibility before the assembly polls in 2025. "The campaigning by Nitish Kumar along with Narendra Modi in the LS polls would also be finalised soon," said an NDA source.

THE 8 MEN IN NITISH TEAM

FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN A DECADE, NITISH KUMAR (72) HAS CHANGED CAMP. BACK IN NDA, NITISH HAS ANNOUNCED A SMALL 8-MEMBER CABINET TEAM. HERE'S HOW IT LOOKS LIKE:

Prem Kumar (68)
MLA: Gaya town
BJP



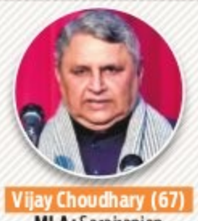
Bijendra P Yadav (77)
MLA: Supaul
JD(U)

Samrat Choudhary (56)
MLC,
BJP

Santhosh K Suman (48)
MLC
HAM

Shravan Kumar (66)
MLA: Nalanda
JD(U)

Vijay Sinha (57)
MLA: Lakhisarai
BJP



Vijay Choudhary (67)
MLA: Sarairanjan
JD(U)

Sumit K Singh (40)
MLA: Chakai
Independent

BJP TACTICS

BJP knows Nitish Kumar continues to carry huge influence among 36% of the EBCs in the state. This is the vote share that the BJP looked at as a part of its electoral strategy for the LS polls.

Nitish waited until the Ayodhya consecration. It became clear to him that PM Modi has created a wave and that a "boycott" of the event by the Opposition was a blunder

SHAHID FARIDI
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POWER GAMES

US Ambassador

KWATRA, MISRI IN RACE TO REPLACE SANDHU

Two of India's top diplomats - Vinay Mohan Kwatra and Vikram Misri – are the front runners in the race to replace India's ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who is scheduled to retire on January 31. Sandhu was to retire in January last year but was given a one-year extension. According to sources, it has been conveyed to the Indian ambassador to the US that his replacement would soon arrive in Washington to take charge from him. Sources said Kwatra, whose two-year term as foreign secretary is scheduled to come to an end in April this year, and Vikram Misri, currently working at the National Security Council Secretariat as Deputy National Security Advisor, are among the top contenders to be the next Indian ambassador to the US. Both Kwatra and Misri are establishment favourites. They enjoy excellent rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor A K Doval. India's next man in Washington will be selected by these three men. Sources said in case they pick Kwatra for the job, Misri will most likely replace him in the South Block.

Kissa Kursi Ka

NAMING KHARGE INDIA CHIEF GOT NITISH'S GOAT

The INDIA bloc lost Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar the day it named Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as its chairman. Sources close to Nitish said their leader had rallied the opposition together as he wanted to lead the group and become the Prime Ministerial candidate in the next Lok Sabha election. But the opposition's decision to appoint Kharge as INDIA chairman spoiled his plan. He snapped all communication with the INDIA bloc from that day. Rahul Gandhi called him thrice but Nitish did not receive his calls. Bihar Congress president Akhilesh Singh and state legislature party leader Shakeel Khan were sent to talk to him. But Nitish refused to entertain them. Even when it became certain that Nitish was going to dump INDIA and join the NDA, Kharge and Sonia Gandhi tried to contact him. But he remained unavailable. JD(U) sources said the only reason their leader broke the alliance with the NDA was to fulfil his ambition of playing a role in national politics. "But some INDIA parties ignored his efforts in bringing the group together and denied him the role desired by him. They will now know the worth of Nitish Kumar," said a senior JD(U) leader.

155mm Indian Ammunition

PROBE ORDERED INTO SHELLS REACHING UKRAINE

The Government of India has initiated investigations into Russian complaints that 155mm artillery shells made in India have found their way into Ukraine. Sources said that Indian agencies are looking into the supply contracts of at least five companies that produce these ammunitions. Sources requested not to name these companies because of the sensitive nature of these investigations. The government of India has categorically denied sending the said 155mm artillery shells to Ukraine. There are, however, reports that some private Indian manufacturers may have sold these shells to clients in Europe, who in turn may have sold it to Ukraine. Sources said the government is checking the end-user certificate of all the 155mm shells exported in the last couple of years, especially since the Russia-Ukraine war began.

CBI books WB officials over fake ST certificates in medical admissions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered an FIR against unknown government officials and other persons in a case pertaining to alleged issuance of fake caste certificates, which were used for medical admissions in West Bengal in the last three years.

The agency has registered the FIR following a direction issued by the Calcutta High Court on January 24, 2024, while hearing the matter of Itisha Soren vs Union of India.

Soren, who appeared in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test last year, belongs to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. She has claimed that she was denied a seat in a government medical college, though others made it by showing fake ST certificates.

According to the CBI FIR, a copy of which is with this newspaper, a large number of candidates were allotted seats for different government colleges with ST certificates, which were obtained from the competent authority fraudulently.

"The genuineness of ST certificates of a large number of NEET (UG)-2023 qualified candidates, who participated as ST category candidates, actually do not belong to the ST community and consequently, their ST certificates are not valid. The authority concerned did not take any steps to that effect, the CBI further alleged in the FIR.

"Under such circumstances, the petitioner lodged a complaint to the Director of Medical Education and Chairman of West Bengal Medical Counseling Committee," it said.

Due to the "utter violation of the principles of natural Justice, equity and fair play," the petitioner was deprived of her legitimate claim, it said.

Not fair play

The CBI has registered the FIR following Calcutta HC order while hearing the matter in Itisha Soren vs Union of India case. Soren, who took the NEET-UG last year, belongs to the ST category. She has claimed that she was denied a seat in a government medical college, though others made it by showing fake ST certificates.

Lord Ram's rule inspired makers of Constitution: PM

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister **Narendra Modi** on Sunday said the rule of Lord Ram was a source of inspiration for the makers of the Constitution, and it was this sentiment that united crores of people during the Ayodhya temple consecration ceremony on January 22.

He was addressing the 109th edition of the 'Mann ki Baat', a monthly radio show. "That's why on January 22 in Ayodhya, I had talked about 'Dev se Desh'. I'd referred to 'Ram se Rashtra', Modi said.

PM Modi further stated that Sita and Lakshman's pictures had adorned the pages of the original Constitution.

On how Ram has been rooted in India's culture, he said, "Everyone's feeling is the same, everyone's devotion is the same. Ram is in everyone's words, Ram is in everyone's heart".

He said that the collective strength shown during the consecration ceremony in the country will take the country to new heights of progress.

In his pre-recorded radio broadcast, PM Modi urged young voters to register themselves so that they could exercise their franchise.

The PM also said that a solution to sort out a longstanding problem that emerged in the absence of a common language for the terminology of diseases, treatments and medicines in alternative medicines like Ayurveda, Siddha, or Unani has also been determined now.

"I am happy to share that the Ministry of AYUSH has categorised the data and terminology related to Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine with the help of the World Health Organisation. Through the efforts of both, the terminology related to disease and treatment in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha medicine has been codified," the Prime Minister said.

Speaking about the recent Padma awards, Modi said, "I am very happy that the system of Padma awards has transformed completely in the last decade. Now it has become people's Padma", he claimed, adding that the contribution of each one of the Padma awardees has been an inspiration for the countrymen.

The PM also lauded the participation of Nari Shakti in this year's Republic Day parade, saying that out of the 20 contingents, 11 were all-women.

He asserted that India-on the path of becoming 'vikshit-bharat' in the 21st century, is moving ahead with the mantra of women-led development and that 13 women athletes were honoured with the Arjuna Award this year also.

PM Modi also lauded organ donors, saying that some people are performing their duties through social service, some by joining the Army, some by teaching the next generation. Still, there are some who, even after the end of life, fulfil their responsibilities towards society.

Centre plans to digitise agricultural cooperative banks in states on Jan 30

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Central government is planning to computerise the agricultural cooperative sector in a bid to bring transparency and efficiency. It is also set to release a national database of 8 lakh cooperative societies in the country.

The Ministry of Cooperation, in collaboration with the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), will launch the project for computerisation of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs) of all states and Union territories on January 30.

According to several experts, digitalisation of the cooperative sector has been long due and it will modernise and revive the ailing sector.

"Precise data related to cooperative loan disbursements would help the managements make well-informed decisions and enable the governments to make policies related to it," said Dr N Satyanarayan, former head of the National Cooperative Union of India, an apex organisation representing the entire cooperative movement in the country.

The project aims at computerising 1,851 ARDBs in 13 states and UTs, and link them with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through a common software. It will standardise business procedures through Common Accounting System and Management Information System.

Cooperative societies and banks disburse loans for different purposes like crops, seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, agriculture equipment, land development, irrigation purposes and others.

"Digitalisation will help measure the productivity of loans, identify borrowing trends, whether bigger or smaller farmers borrow and their productivity," said Satyanarayan. However, he said that "feeding precise data into the system will be a major challenge before this project."

In addition, the ministry has decided to make the functioning of RCS offices paperless.

Amit Shah, Union Minister of Cooperation, said in a statement that digitization is a major step towards realizing PM Modi's vision of "Sahkar Se Samriddhi".

Experts welcome plan

According to several experts, digitalisation of the cooperative sector has been long due and it will modernise and revive the ailing sector. "Precise data related to cooperative loan disbursements would help the managements make well-informed decisions and enable the governments to make policies related to it," said Dr N Satyanarayan, former head of the National Cooperative Union of India, an apex organisation representing the entire cooperative movement in the country

Farmers' union calls for rural bandh on Feb 16

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

TO mount pressure on the Central government before the interim budget, farmers' collective Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has given a call for 'Grameen Bandh' (rural shutdown) on February 16, 2024, across the country. It has also urged workers from industries and the informal sector to participate in the protest.

The SKM has appealed to the farmers to close shops, mandis, and other activities in the entire village, and join the local demonstrations to create pressure on the Union government in accepting its long awaited demand of guaranteed procurement of all crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP).

The SKM has accused the BJP-led Union government of backtracking its promises.

The farmers' collective further demanded that the government should fulfil the commitments on MSP and others it had given in writing to the SKM on December 9, 2021.

NHAI's 'Rajmargyatra' app to show details of tourist sites near highways

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE details of tourist sites in the vicinity of national highways and convenient routes to reach them will soon be available on the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application launched by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The app was created for improved user experience on highways, offering essential information and complaint redressal.

According to officials, the NHAI is updating its app following a suggestion from the Ministry of Tourism to increase tourist footfalls at sites located within 25 kilometre radius of the highways.

The topic was discussed during a roundtable conference held by the tourism ministry to explore and leverage the potential of India's tourism ecosystem last month. Officials said that towns with tourist potential and places of tourist interest in the vicinity of entry or exit points of the highways will be embedded in the app. The ministry, however, suggested mapping places that are in the radius of 200 km of highways.

"We are awaiting details from the ministry, along with the coordinates of tourism sites, especially those of small or lesser known places. Update will be done as the details are available. The idea is whenever a user of the app reaches a point while travelling on the highway, all those sites will be reflected on the app. And if a traveller wishes to visit any site, he will be guided via the app," said an NHAI official.

Connectivity

Officials from the National Highways Authority of India said that the Authority is focusing on improvement of roads leading to small towns or sites such as Bhimbetka and Udayagiri caves. The Ministry of Tourism or the Archaeological Survey of India could also recommend places where the improvement of infrastructure is required, the officials said.

The app was introduced as a one-stop repository to improve user travelling experience in August by providing essential information such as real-time weather conditions, timely broadcast notifications, and access to details about nearby toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels, and other facilities for national highway users.

The app is also equipped with an inbuilt complaint redressal and escalation mechanism. Users can easily report the issues, attaching geo-tagged videos or photos for better clarity.

MARATHA QUOTA

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange on Sunday said the agitation will continue until members of the community start receiving benefits under the Maharashtra government's proposed notification.

18 IAS OFFICERS GET NEW IN MADHYA PRADESH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	20	10	Mumbai	32	24
Bhopal	23	15	Panaji	08	02
Jaipur	20	09	Patna	21	15
Amritsar	16	04	Lucknow	19	10
Chennai	26	24	Port Blair	34	26
Kolkata	25	15	Imphal	23	05
Srinagar	09	-05	Chandigarh	20	04

Show intellect, uproot BJP: Rahul

Bharat Nyay Yatra in Bengal 'cut short' as Rahul is likely to skip Alipurduar and Darjeeling

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Siliguri | PTI

RESUMING his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in West Bengal on Sunday, Congress leader Rahul Gndhi gave a clarion call to the people of the state to show the country the path to uproot the BJP from the Centre by applying their intellectual power.

"Being a Bengali, it is your responsibility to apply your intellectual power and show the country the road to uproot BJP from the Centre in the upcoming general election. It is your responsibility to protest against injustice. If you don't do this, the country will not forgive you," said Rahul while addressing a gathering in Siliguri.

Gandhi, however, preferred not to spend a single word on the Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's change in his political stance by joining hands with the BJP and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's decision to rule out an alliance with INDIA bloc partner Congress and fight all 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Sources said the Yatra was cut short in Bengal as Rahul would skip his visit to Alipurduar and Darjeeling. The Congress leader will enter North Dinajpur on Monday before entering Bihar. He will re-enter Bengal and start his yatra from Malda on February 1.

Accusing the saffron camp of spreading hatred, Gandhi said, "India is a country of love. But the BJP is injecting hatred among the people of the country. You will have to stand against it."

Despite Mamata's loud and clear announcement that her party will fight alone in Bengal in the upcoming general elections, Congress's general secretary Jairam Ramesh, who is accompanying Gandhi, praised firebrand politician for pursuing the same objective that the grand old party believes.

"Like Congress, Mamata Banerjee has the same objective of standing against the BJP and its ideological parent RSS. Both the parties will fight for the same goal being partners of INDIA bloc," said Ramesh.

The Congress leader's statement praising Mamata appears to be an attempt to eliminate the adverse impact of Mamata's decision to rule out alliance with Congress in Bengal and keep open the possibility of seat sharing with the ruling TMC in the general elections.

While addressing the Yatra in Siliguri in North Bengal, said, "The Union government has made a mockery of the youths who wanted to join the armed forces by introducing the Agniveer scheme, a short-term recruitment scheme for the armed forces."

"Hatred and violence are being spread across the country. It will serve no purpose. Instead of spreading hatred, we have to work towards spreading love and justice for our youth. The Centre is working only for big corporations and not for the poor and the youth," he said.

Expressing gratitude for the reception he received in Bengal, Gandhi said, "Bengal holds a special place. It had led the ideological fight during the Independence struggle. It is the duty of the Bengalis to lead the fight against hatred."

Yatra in J'khand on Feb 2

Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will be reaching Jharkhand on February 2 via Pakur. According to Congress leaders, route of the yatra, however, is yet to be decided. The former Congress President will stay for eight days in Jharkhand, covering 13 districts and 804 km during his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' which started on January 14 from Manipur. Chief Minister Hemant Soren is likely to join Rahul Gandhi during his Yatra in Jharkhand. A high-level meeting of the Congress, headed by the newly elected state in charge, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, was held in Deoghar on Saturday.

Over 150 from Cong, AASU join BJP days after Assam yatra leg

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE BJP received a shot in the arm on Sunday when over 150 members from Congress and All Assam Students' Union (AASU) joined the party.

Among those who wore saffron included former minister Bismita Gogoi, expelled Youth Congress state president Angkita Dutta and former AASU president Dipanka Kumar Nath. They joined the ruling party in the presence of its state chief Bhabesh Kalita and ministers Pijush Hazarika and Jayanta Malla Baruah.

The development comes days after Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra passed through Assam. The BJP was quick to take a dig at the grand old party. "I have to admit Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Bus Nyay Yatra has created a huge impact in Assam. Over 150 leaders have joined BJP today," Pijush Hazarika wrote on X.

After joining BJP, Bismita alleged women were no longer safe in Congress. "Congress stooped so low that they discussed even about my blouse. They said my blouse has a lotus and as such, I am joining BJP. I am hurt that they are not respecting women. I cannot take names but I was told that a Congress leader, entrusted with an important responsibility, said this," Bismita alleged.

She asked what people could expect from a party that started talking about the blouse of a woman. She heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for their development initiatives.

Angkita, whom Congress expelled last year days after her charge that she was harassed by Youth Congress national president Srinivas BV, claimed the ideology of Congress got reduced to rebranding Rahul Gandhi. "Bharat Jodo Yatra and Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra are parts of that endeavour," she said.

She said she was hoping to get justice from Rahul but he ignored all those who secured votes for Congress, when his Yatra passed through her native place Amguri recently.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
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MVA may share 2-3 seats with Ambedkar party

Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is keen on taking Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi leader Prakash Ambedkar on board the INDIA bloc ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Ambedkar, however, is yet to take a firm stand, choosing to remain ambiguous. In the proposed alliance, the MVA is ready to offer two to three seats in Maharashtra; Ambedkar has put forth the demand for 12 seats on social media, also insisting the Shiv Sena (UBT) to ditch other allies and contest on 24 seats each in the gebneral elections. MVA feels Ambedkar may pull back at the last minute like in the 2019 Lok Sabha and the state assembly elections.

Rohit Pawar, the new 'Dada' in Maha politics?

Dada, the nickname of NCP MLA Rohit Pawar, the grand nephew of NCP chief Sharad Pawar, in close circles is now echoing in state politics. When Rohit Pawar appeared before the ED in connection with a money laundering probe, an eye-catching poster appeared at the NCP office, showing Rohit Pawar and bearing the message: 'Padnara Dada nave, ladnara Dada' (This Dada will not run away; Dada is a fighter). This may also be a jibe at Dy CM Ajit Pawar, also referred to as 'Dada'. Following the ED notice, Ajit Pawar joined the BJP-led government in Maharashtra, the poster incited.

Shinde: From 'underdog' to a 'big game player'

Eknath Shinde was initially treated as inexperienced and 'not a big leader' in the Maharashtra arena. Although the BJP high command promoted him as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, demoted Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis tried to influence the decisions of the state government, commentators said. Shinde, however, has outsmarted both his deputies, Pawar and Fadnavis during the Maratha quota protests. Shinde skill fully handled the Maratha march, positing himself as a 'messiah' of the Marathas even though Maratha reservation is yet a distant possibility. Both the deputies are finding it difficult to retain the space and importance they enjoyed.

JMM steps up stir against Central agencies as CM Soren leaves for Delhi

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

AMID the letter-summon imbroglio, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren is likely to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in the land scam case on January 31.

According to a source in the Chief Minister's Office, Soren will be available for the ED on January 31 but, it is unclear whether the questioning will take place at the agency's office or his official residence.

Soren is currently in New Delhi sparking speculations of something big in the offing in Jharkhand. Meanwhile, the CM's programme which was scheduled to take place in Jamshedpur, Palamu and Giridih, during which he was to distribute acceptance letter to the beneficiaries of Abua Awas Yojana, stands deferred.

Earlier on January 27, the ED sent a letter to Soren once again, asking him to decide time and place for questioning either on January 29 or 31.

It shot off the letter after Soren skipped its ninth summons and sent a reply expressing his inability to appear before it, citing pre-engagements before March 31.

Notably, after skipping the summons for the eighth time in the case, CM Soren agreed to join the probe, following which, he was questioned by ED at his residence in Ranchi on January 20 for more than 7 hours. Now, ED wants to question him once again. ED is carrying out an investigation in Ranchi land scam case on the basis of the documents recovered from Bhanu Pratap's house, one of the key accused in land scam case.

According to the central agency, several important documents related to land were found in the raid from the house of Sub-Inspector Bhanu Pratap Prasad of Badagain zone. Certain documents are allegedly linked with the CM related to the alleged grab of a costly parcel of tribal land in Ranchi.

JMM workers march to guv

Meanwhile, intensifying their protest, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) workers on Sunday marched towards Raj Bhawan accusing the Centre and BJP of misusing central investigating agencies, but were stopped by police.

'HARASSED'

Family of three commits suicide in MP's Gwalior

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

A shocking incident of family suicide was reported from Gwalior district in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday morning.

A middle-aged private colonizer Jitendra Jha, his government school principal wife, Triveni, and Class XII student son, Achal were found hanging dead in the same house in Sirol area early on Sunday.

According to Gwalior district police superintendent Rajesh Singh Chandel, the neighbours did not see the family of three in the last two days, following which they rang Triveni's relatives. When the relatives rushed to the house on Sunday morning, they found the main gate of the house not properly locked from inside. Inside, they were shocked to find all the three individuals hanging by their necks in the same room.

"A suicide note purportedly written by Jitendra Jha was recovered from the same room. The note said his 17-year-old boy died by suicide due to prolonged harassment by a particular person. Jolted by son's demise, the couple too died by suicide in similar manner," Chandel said, adding, "The suicide note prima facie suggests it could be family suicide."

MP CM meets Raj counterpart as prospects for canal project brighten

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

PROSPECTS for an agreement between the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan governments over the **East Rajasthan Canal Project** (ERCP), a canal project crucial for serving the water needs of 13 districts of east Rajasthan have brightened.

MP Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav visited Jaipur on Sunday, engaging in a significant discussion with his Rajasthan counterpart Bhajan Lal Sharma at his residence.

The primary focus of their talks centered around the ERCP and the escalating water crisis in Rajasthan. The two CMs said after their meeting that a detailed agreement between the two states over the ERCP will be implemented quickly and will be soon be announced.

The ERCP canal ran into controversy during the Congress rule because while the Gehlot government was ruling in Rajasthan, the MP govt had raised all kinds of objections to prevent the ERCP from becoming a functional reality.

With BJP having promised in their election manifesto and elections having led to BJP governments in both states, the possibility of this canal turning into a reality ahead of Lok Sabha elections is very much being talked about.

There is a major ray of hope for the ERCP, a crucial initiative to provide drinking and irrigation water to 13 districts in Rajasthan. In a joint presser following their meeting, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma reflected on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's plan. It envisioned the interlinking of rivers, including those in MP and Rajasthan, and blamed Congress for the delay. "Despite the Modi government's initiation in 2014, Congress-led governments in MP and Rajasthan impeded the project's advancement," CM Sharma lamented.

He shed light on the potential positive outcomes of water-sharing agreements between the two states. "The decision on sharing river water will not only quench the thirst of the people and irrigate our lands but will also pave the way for the development of new industrial areas," he emphasized.

Anticipating positive resolutions from ongoing discussions between state officials, he mentioned plans for the construction of seven dams in Madhya Pradesh under the ERCP.

Addressing the media after his meeting with Dr. Mohan Yadav, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma accused Congress of playing politics with the ERCP. "Congress only did politics on ERCP," he said. He expressed optimism about resolving the issues soon, ensuring welfare for the people.

C'garh project aims to reform juvenile offenders

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

CHHATTISGARH police in Bilaspur district in a first of its kind initiative got engaged with a model on 'diversion' programme, aimed to redirect juvenile offenders who are in conflict with laws offering them vital support and guidance to secure a good future instead of turning as hardcore adult criminals later. Except those who are accused in serious or heinous crimes, the accused children are diverted from the juvenile justice board or formal court exercise.

The programme, "Dishant: Nav Nabh Ki Oor" (Horizon: Towards A New Sky) signifies the unwavering commitment of the Bilaspur cops to bring a bout a positive change in the lives of children (juvenile offenders) at risk, in collaboration with the UNICEF and Counsel to Secure Justice (CSJ).

"It brings a ray of hope, focusing on restorative and alternative measures instead of seeking punishment for children accused of committing offences, keeping in mind the Juvenile Justice Act", said Ajay Yadav, Bilaspur range IG.

Initially, focus was on those involved in petty crimes. The drug addicts are handled through the ongoing Nijaat campaign to help them conquer adversities in their lives.

Besides the police, the counsellors act like good friends to juveniles facing adverse life situations as they extend support with a patient hearing like a companion who guides.

"After screening and assessment, the intent is to bring these juvenile offenders back into mainstream society. Those expressing willingness are given priority and their identity kept confidential. We have a team of experienced counsellors, artists, musicians, sports coaches, yoga experts to channelise their energy towards new interests, positive thoughts and constructive activities in a safe space without the need for institutionalisation", said Santosh Singh, Bilaspur superintendent of police.

"Perhaps this is the first of its plan by the district police carried out in an organised way not just on diversion for delinquent teenagers but also providing them a good future through education, life-skill, family counselling, crisis intervention or even scope of employment. The efforts aimed to prevent these juvenile offenders becoming habitual adult criminals later", said Job Zachariah, UNICEF state chief.

To begin with, over 30 juvenile offenders have been screened with a deadline set till May this year and are given crucial support, counselling and instructions. The interaction sessions are held on a regular basis with close monitoring and follow-ups.

The holistic intervention involves a need-based approach to inculcate qualitative improvement in the lives of the children to keep an eye on their activities.

'Inculcating values'

The holistic intervention involves a need-based approach to inculcate qualitative improvement in the lives of the children. Feedback sessions are held with parents or guardians, friends, locals and the counsellors to keep an eye on their activities. "Out of the over 30 juvenile offenders engaged with us, we hope to achieve success in around twenty of them", said CSJ.

Poverty-driven Kashmiri artisan breathes life into wood, earns Padma

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

LIFE has always not been easy for 72-year-old artisan. Master wood-carver, **Ghulam Nabi Dar** of Kashmir, was conferred the Padma Shri award by the Centre on Republic Day.

Thrown out of school for being unable to pay fees; faced with abject poverty and life's litmus tests, he did not surrender. By sheer grit and perseverance, today, Dar is an acclaimed name in the artistic tradition of wood carving.

"My father had a small business, until he suffered great losses there. I was about 10 years old then, studying in 3rd or 4th grade. Failing to pay fees, I was thrown out of school," Ghulam Nabi Dar hailing from Safakadal area in downtown Srinagar tells us.

He says his maternal uncle took him and his younger brother to a wood carving unit at Sarai Safakadal to learn the craft.

"I spent 5 years there but I did not learn much about wood carving. I only learnt the use of some equipments," Dar said.

ZAHOOR PUNJABI

His urge to learn, delve deep into the art, took him to another wood carving unit. "I spent five years in the unit and learnt some basics of wood carving. But, it was not enough to imbibe the art," Dar said.

Deeply drawn to learn the intricacies of the form, Dar would work during the day to earn a living for his family while at night he would dabble in art.

"A master craftsman instructed me orally on the nitty-gritties of the art. I was patient, determined; and I persevered until I learned the delicate details of the craft," Dar says.

Now an acclaimed craftsman, Dar has evolved from traditional forms to crafting his unique pieces inspired by nature.

His artistic prowess in full bloom, he has received state and national acclaim. He was honoured with the state awards by the J&K government in 1984 and the National Award in 1995-96. He also travelled to Baghdad, where he received praise and recognition for his intricate wood carving.

Humble Dar says he never imagined in wild dreams that he would be awarded Padma Shri. "It was all so sudden. It brought celebrations in our home. My family knows the troubles I have faced in learning this craft," he said.

The master artisan says he is ready to pass his knowledge to the future generations.

"I am telling people, especially the youth, to come to me and learn this intricate from; keep this art alive. I will teach free of cost. However, people are not interested, confused, or even intimidated by the intricate details of the art. It takes patience to learn," said Dar.

33
killed, 16 injured in separate traffic crashes in eastern Afghanistan, authorities said on Sunday

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	16	SNY	Los Angeles	26	17	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	25	12	HR
Dhaka	32	27	SNY	Moscow	21	8	HR
Dubai	39	31	SNY	New York	26	16	LC
Houston	31	23	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	17	SNY	Toronto	19	11	LC
London	24	13	LC	Washington	27	14	SNY

UN chief calls to resume funding of aid agency after allegations

Guterres warned that UNRWA would be forced to scale back aid to two million Palestinians in Gaza as soon as February

RAFAH

THE secretary-general of the United Nations on Sunday called on countries to resume funding the main agency providing aid in the Gaza Strip after a dozen of its employees were accused of taking part in the Hamas attack on Israel.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) would be forced to scale back aid to more than 2 million Palestinians in Gaza as soon as February. The coastal enclave is in the grip of a severe humanitarian crisis, with a quarter of the population facing starvation as fighting and Israeli restrictions hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid to the besieged territory.

"The abhorrent alleged acts of these staff members must have consequences," Guterres said. "But the tens of thousands of men and women who work for UNRWA, many in some of the most dangerous situations for humanitarian workers, should not be penalised. The dire needs of the desperate populations they serve must be met," he added.

He said that of the 12 employees accused of taking part in the attack, nine were immediately terminated, one was confirmed dead and two others were still being identified. He said they would be held accountable, including through criminal prosecution.

More than 2 million of the territory's 2.3 million people depend on the agency's programmes for "sheer survival," including food and shelter, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said. It's a lifeline that could "collapse any time now," he said after the funding was suspended.

Meanwhile, Israeli protesters blocked humanitarian aid trucks from entering the Gaza Strip on Sunday, forcing the lorries to turn around at a crossing with Palestinian territory.

Hundreds gathered in the latest protest at the Kerem Shalom crossing, despite the army saying in a statement it had declared the area "a closed military zone."

The demonstrators, some affiliated with relatives of hostages held in Gaza, have assembled there for days to protest aid going to the territory.

"We don't want anything to get into Gaza because everything that goes ... to Gaza goes directly to the terrorists and we don't want that," protester Shoshi Strikowski told *AFP*.

COGAT, an Israeli defence ministry body governing civilian affairs in the occupied Palestinian territories, said that the Kerem Shalom crossing was closed Sunday due to around "around 200" protesters demonstrating there.

The demonstrators oppose aid reaching Gaza until all Israeli hostages held by Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups are released, AFP correspondent reported. *Agencies*

People attend a demonstration in Tel Aviv, Israel on Saturday demanding the release of the hostages taken by Hamas | AP

UN agency essential for millions of Palestinians

The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), shaken by accusations of staff involvement in Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, has provided essential aid for Palestinian refugees since 1949

AID AND PROTECTION

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency was established in December 1949 by the UN General Assembly

The agency is charged with supplying humanitarian aid and protection for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including east Jerusalem

Palestinian refugees are "persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict," UNRWA says

THE 2018 CRISIS

In 2018, the US, largest contributor to UNRWA, cut its annual contribution by $300 million

In 2019, Donald Trump's Middle East adviser told UN Security Council that UNRWA should be dismantled

The same year, a report alleged mismanagement and abuses of authority at the highest levels of the UN agency. In November 2019, the agency's chief resigned

7,50,000
REFUGEES SERVED

At its founding, UNRWA served about 7,50,000 Palestinian refugees. Now around 5.9 million Palestinians are registered with UNRWA and can access health care, social services, microfinance and emergency aid

The UN agency manages 60 camps, 19 of them in the West Bank. More than 5,40,000 children study in UNRWA schools

UNRWA IN GAZA

As per UN data from August, 63% of Gazans suffered from food insecurity and were dependent on international aid. Over 80% lived below the poverty line

Among the 30,000 people employed by UNRWA, 13,000 work in the Gaza Strip, across 300 installations in an area of 365 square kilometres

3 US troops killed in drone attack by Iran-backed militia in Jordan: Biden

WASHINGTON

THREE American troops were killed and 25 were injured Sunday in a drone strike in northeast Jordan near the Syrian border, the US military said. President Joe Biden blamed Iran-backed militias for the first US fatalities after months of strikes by the groups against American forces across the Middle East.

"While we are still gathering the facts of this attack, we know it was carried out by radical Iran-backed militant groups operating in Syria and Iraq," Biden said.

DEAL FOR HOSTAGES IN THE WORKS: U.S.

US negotiators are making progress on a potential agreement under which Israel would pause military operations for two months in exchange for the release of hostages. In the first phase, fighting would stop to allow for remaining women, elderly hostages to be released.

The US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a large drone struck the base, which two other American officials identified as an installation in Jordan known as Tower 22. It is along the Syrian border and is used largely by troops involved in the advise-and-assist mission for Jordanian forces.

Jordanian state television quoted Muhannad Mubaidin, a government spokesman, as insisting the attack happened outside of the kingdom across the border in Syria. US officials insisted that the attack took place in Jordan.

Hamas said death of soldiers shows US' backing for Israel could put it at odds with whole Muslim world if Gaza war continues and could lead to "regional explosion." *Agencies*

Iran's two-stage Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite carrier lifting off | AFP

Iran successfully launches three satellites in space

TEHRAN

IRAN said on Sunday it successfully launched three satellites into space with a rocket that had failures in the past.

Footage released by Iranian state television showed a nighttime launch for the Simorgh rocket. An *AP* analysis of the footage showed that it took place at Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's Semnan. "The roar of the Simorgh (rocket) resonated in our country's sky and infinite space," said Abbas Rasooli, state TV reporter.

The launched satellites are Mahda, Kayhan-2 and Hatef-1. Mahda is a research satellite, while the Kayhan and the Hatef are nanosatellites focused on global positioning and communication respectively. Iran's Information and Communications Technology Ministry said the Mahda had already sent signals back to Earth.

The footage showed the rocket launched on Sunday bore the slogan "We Can" in Farsi.

The Simorgh is a two-stage, liquid-fuelled rocket the Iranians described as being designed to place satellites into a low Earth orbit.

The US military and the State Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Sunday. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

WORKING WITH SATELLITE SERVICE SOURCE

Indonesia's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono explored cooperation with Norwegian satellite services provider called Kongsberg Satellite Service (KSAT), to boost implementation of blue economy programmes. "KSAT has the capacity and experience in earth observation satellite, development of hardware and software for maritime surveillance, as well as ship detection, to monitor illegal activities at sea," Wahyu said. KSAT can be used in maritime sector as the satellite can also monitor algae bloom, *Antara* reported

MALAYSIA

1,237 COMMERCIAL CRIMES RECORDED

Malaysia's Terengganu police recorded a total of 1,237 cases of commercial crimes involving loss of RM33.32 million throughout 2023, compared to 1,311 cases with loss of RM24.32 million in 2022, *MalayMail* reported. Data from Terengganu Commercial Crime Investigation Dept showed surge in losses in 2023 by 37% compared to previous year

THAILAND

SIGNING VISA WAIVER DEAL WITH CHINA

Thailand and China on Sunday signed off on a visa waiver agreement at talks between their foreign ministers. The deal inked by Thai foreign minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi allows people from the two nations to travel to one anothers' country visa-free from March 1. Thai officials hope the deal will encourage more Chinese to come and boost tourism sector. "This agreement is a symbol of our long-lasting friendship, trust and confidence... and help to stimulate the tourism industry in both countries," Parnpree said

Finns go to polls to elect president amid tensions with Russia

HELSINKI

VOTERS in Finland were electing a new president on Sunday at an unprecedented time for the Nordic nation that is now a NATO member with its eastern border with Russia closed —two things almost unthinkable a few years ago.

Polls across the country opened at 9 am local time and closed at 8 pm (1800 GMT).

The president of Finland holds executive power in formulating foreign and security policy, particularly when dealing with countries outside the EU. The president also acts as the supreme commander of the Finnish military.

Some 4.5 million citizens are eligible to vote for Finland's new head of state from an array of nine candidates—six men and three women. They are picking a successor to President Sauli Niinistö, whose second six-year term expires in March. He is not eligible for re-election.

No candidate is expected get more than 50% of the vote in Sunday's first round of voting, pushing the race into a runoff in February. Recent polls suggest that ex-PM Alexander Stubb, 55, and ex-Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, 65, are the leading contenders.

Stubb, who represents the conservative National Coalition Party and headed the Finnish government in 2014-2015, and veteran politician Haavisto, an ex-United Nations diplomat running for the post for the third time, are each estimated to garner 23%-27% of the votes.

They are followed by Parliament speaker and former leader of the far-right Finns Party Jussi Halla-aho with around 18%. Bank of Finland governor and former EU Commissioner Olli Rehn is expected to receive about a 14% share of the votes. *AP*

U.S.-MEXICO LINE

Will shut down border right now if Congress sends a deal: Biden

COLUMBIA

BIDDING to salvage a border deal in Congress that would also unlock money for Ukraine, President Joe Biden offered fresh assurances that he would be willing to close the US-Mexico border if lawmakers would send him a bill to sign.

Biden—also eager to disarm GOP criticism of his handling of migration at the border—said in South Carolina that he would shut down the border "right now" if Congress passed the proposed deal. The framework hasn't been formally agreed to by Senate Democrats and Republicans and would face an uncertain future in the GOP-controlled House.

"A bipartisan bill would be good for America and help fix our broken immigration system and allow speedy access for those who deserve to be here, and Congress needs to get it done," Biden said. "It'll also give me, as President, the emergency authority to shut down the border until it could get back under control. If that bill were the law today, I'd shut down the border right now and fix it quickly."

The deal being negotiated in Congress would require the US to shutter the border if 5,000 migrants cross illegally on any given day. Some one-day totals last year exceeded 10,000.

On Friday, Biden said deal would allow him "a new emergency authority" to close border. He added, "And if given that authority, I would use it the day I sign bill into law." *AP*

Officials stole $40 million meant to buy 1,00,000 mortar shells for war: Ukraine

KYIV

EMPLOYEES from a Ukrainian arms firm conspired with defence ministry officials to embezzle almost $40 million earmarked to buy 1,00,000 mortar shells for the war with Russia that started in February 2022, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) reported.

The SBU said late Saturday that five persons have been charged, with one person detained while trying to cross the Ukrainian border. If found guilty, they face up to 12 years in prison.

Security officials say that the current investigation dates back to August 2022, when officials signed a contract for artillery shells worth $39.6 million with arms firm Lviv Arsenal.

After receiving the payment, company employees were supposed to transfer the funds to a business registered abroad, which would then deliver the ammunition to Ukraine.

However, the goods were never delivered and the money was instead sent to various accounts in Ukraine and the Balkans, investigators said.

Ukraine's prosecutor general says that the funds have since been seized and will be returned to the country's defence budget. *Agencies*

CURRENT AND FORMER CHIEFS INVOLVED

Officials accused include the current and former heads of the defence ministry's Department of Military and Technical Policy, Development of Armaments and Military Equipment, as well as the head of Lviv Arsenal.

People wait in to cast their ballots at a polling station during presidential election in Helsinki, Finland on Sunday | AP

EXPRESS READ

North Korea fired several cruise missiles: Seoul

Seoul: South Korea's military said on Sunday that North Korea fired several cruise missiles that flew over waters near a major military shipyard on the country's eastern coast, extending a streak in weapons tests that are worsening tensions with the United States, South Korea and Japan. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said they detected the missiles over waters near the North Korean port of Sinpo, where the North has a major shipyard building key naval vessels, including missile-firing submarines. The South's military didn't immediately provide specific launch details, including the number of missiles fired, how far they flew and whether they were launched from land or naval assets. North Korea's cruise missiles supplement the country's huge lineup of ballistic missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Demanding for healthy food, activists splash soup on Mona Lisa

Activists hurling soup at Mona Lisa painting in Paris on Sunday | AFP

PARIS

TWO protesters on Sunday hurled pumpkin soup at the bullet-proof glass protecting Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" in Paris, demanding the right to "healthy and sustainable food," the museum said.

Two women on Sunday morning flung streams of orange soup onto the glass protecting the smiling lady. "What is more important? Art or the right to healthy and sustainable food," the activists asked, standing in front of the painting and speaking in turn. "Your agricultural system is sick. Our farmers are dying at work," they said.

A group called Riposte Alimentaire ("Food counterattack") claimed responsibility for the stunt. They said the soup throwing marked the "start of a campaign of civil resistance with the clear demand... of social security of sustainable food." They referred to a survey of 996 people last year by Ipsos polling group that found that one in three French people were not always able to afford enough healthy food for three meals a day.

Culture Minister Rachida Dati criticised the soup attack. "The Mona Lisa, as our heritage, belongs to future generations. No cause can justify targeting it," she wrote on X.

The action, which comes as French farmers protest across the country, is the latest in a string of similar attacks against the artworks to demand more action to protect the planet. *AFP*

₹24,700 CR have been offloaded by foreign investors from Indian equities so far.

Buyers prefer bigger homes in hope of better investment returns

National Capital Region saw the highest 37% growth among 7 cities with average flat size growing from from 1,375 sq. ft. in 2022 to 1,890 sq. ft. in 2023

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DESPITE a near double-digit growth in real estate prices, average flat sizes in the country's top seven cities grew by 11% annually last year – from 1,175 sq. ft. in 2022 to 1,300 sq. ft. in 2023, according to the latest report by property consultancy firm Anarock.

In 2021 and 2020, the average flat size across the top 7 cities was comparable to 2022 - 1,170 sq. ft. in 2021 and 1,167 sq. ft. in 2020. The 5-year trend shows a 24% rise – from 1,050 sq. ft. in 2019 to 1,300 sq. ft. in 2023.

Anarock report says that the National Capital Region (NCR) saw the highest growth (37%) in average flat size in the last one year – from 1,375 sq. ft. in 2022 to 1,890 sq. ft. in 2023. The NCR region was followed by two IT and tech hubs- Hyderabad (up 30%) and Bengaluru (up 26%). MMR and Kolkata were the two cities where the average flat sizes decreased in the last one year.

"The supply of bigger luxury homes increased significantly in 2023. Anarock data indicates that more than one lakh units (or about 23%) of the total new launches in 2023 were in the luxury category. The demand for bigger-size homes was kick-started by the pandemic, but there are no signs of it waning three years later," said Anuj Puri, Chairman – Anarock Group.

Evolving Lifestyle

Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder and Chairman, Signature Global (India) says that the trend for purchasing bigger homes has become more prevalent owing to the Covid induced lifestyle changes and consumers' evolving behaviour.

"Homebuyers are more inclined towards aspirational lifestyle and are opting for spaciousness, seeking value housing residences that provide versatile living spaces to accommodate various needs, such as home offices, gyms, or recreational areas. The desire for comfort and flexibility within the confines of one's home has driven the trend towards bigger properties," added Aggarwal.

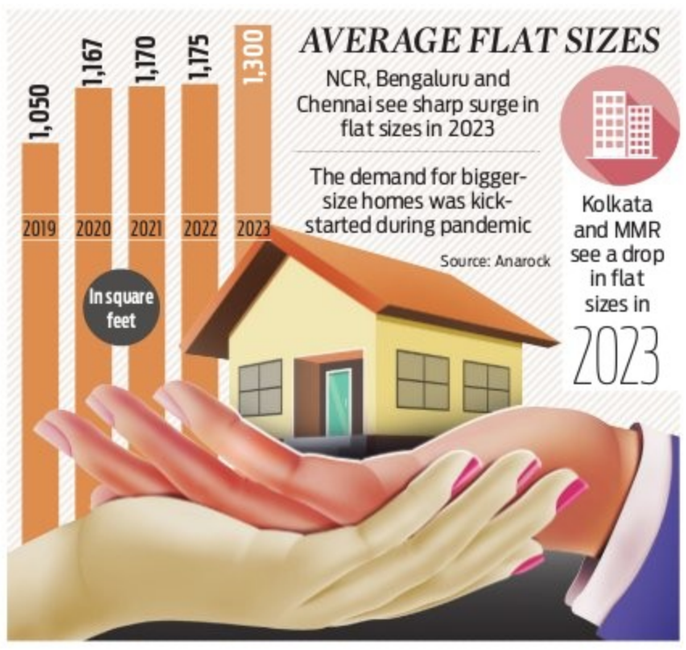
Renu Singh, Director - Sales & Marketing, Aarize Group says that the decision to invest in larger properties aligns with the reported trend of rising demand for bigger houses.

Homebuyers are increasingly seeking more extensive living spaces, potentially driven by evolving lifestyles, a desire for spaciousness, and an inclination towards luxury living.

BETTER RETURN ON INVESTMENT

As the luxury housing segment, where flat sizes are generally bigger, is on a surge since the past two years, there is a belief in the market that money invested here can yield a better return.

"From an investment perspective, purchasing a larger property can indeed make strategic sense. Larger homes often appreciate substantially over the time, especially if located in growing and prime locations. The potential for increased square footage allows for creative renovations and upgrades, enhancing the property's overall appeal and market value," said Aggarwal.



Additionally, larger properties may attract a wider range of potential buyers or tenants, broadening the investment potential, added Aggarwal, whose real estate firm has a substantial presence in the Delhi NCR market.

Renu Singh of Aarize believes that from an investment standpoint, buying a bigger property makes sense in markets where there is a clear demand for larger homes.

"In regions like NCR, where the average flat size has seen a remarkable 51% increase over the past 5 years, investing in larger properties, especially in the luxury segment, could yield favorable returns," said Singh.

However, individual considerations, market conditions, and investment goals should be carefully evaluated before making investment decisions, added Singh.

THE OUTLIERS: MUMBAI AND KOLKATA

Anarock data pointed out that across the top cities, MMR and Kolkata were the only two cities where the average flat sizes decreased in the last one year.

In Kolkata, average flat sizes decreased from 1,150 sq. ft. in 2022 to 1,124 sq. ft. in 2023, while in MMR it reduced from 840 sq. ft. in 2022 to 794 sq. ft. in 2023. However, on a 5-year basis, the cities saw average sizes rise - in MMR by a mere 1% between 2019 and 2023, but a 12% increase in Chennai in the same period.

Chennai saw a 5% yearly jump in average flat sizes – from 1,200 sq. ft. in 2022 to 1,260 sq. ft. in 2023, and a 15% 5-yearly rise.

The average flat size stood at 1,100 sq. ft. in 2019. Average flat sizes in Pune saw a 11% yearly increase to 1,086 sq. ft. in 2023 from 980 sq. ft. back in 2022.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO CONSTITUTE YOUR FINANCES

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

INDIA celebrated its 75th year of being a republic. It meant organising the country's power centres so that there is no concentration of power. The idea is to protect the freedom and rights of individuals. Your finances need you to constitute a similar structure. Your current habit is more skewed towards saving money than investing. That needs to change if you wish to secure your financial future. A persistently high inflation rate eats into your savings, and you are left with money that has lesser value than before.

India is a country of savers. Most households save money than invest. There are 50 crore permanent account numbers or PAN card holders and similar bank accounts in India. However, there are merely 4.2 crore unique mutual fund investors. That is despite years of relentless campaigning to tell people that mutual funds are the best way for retail investors to invest. A considerable amount of money is spent on spreading awareness and encouraging people not just to save but invest.

The idea is to beat inflation through regular investing.

The less than 10% participation in mutual funds is also an opportunity for the financial services industry. The market can grow structurally, and these companies can expand the scope of passive investing. From your standpoint, you need to organise things in a way that you can generate a steady surplus every month. Unless you manage that, you cannot start to invest.

Bring in the constitution

If a country as diverse as India could adopt a constitutional democratic approach after independence, so can you—the commitment to adhere to the rule of law matters. The same applies to your finances. You need to create a rule book. To get going, you need to build a team. You must get your family involved in building that team. Your spouse will play a critical role in ensuring you can properly structure your finances. There cannot be a concentration of saving in fixed deposits or spending too much on credit cards. You need to create a system that checks excessive expenditure by default. You need the support of your family members in curbing overall expenses in your household. That way, you can create a surplus regularly to invest to meet your financial goals.

The next thing to do is to get a professional advisor on your team. An independent professional can give you a dispassionate assessment of your financial habits. If you are overspending, you must go on a path of prudence to save money. If you are saving too much money, you need an appropriate asset allocation plan. A professional advisor can help you with these first steps. They would set you on a path of financial well-being because you will save and invest money in line with your financial goals. That way, you can spend any surplus amount left after investing in an expenditure you always wanted to incur. That could be shopping, travelling to an exotic location, or throwing a surprise party for a loved one. Spending after adequate financial planning will allow you to enjoy key moments in your life. It will also give you a sense of achievement.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Knowledge is power

There is no alternative to knowledge. You must focus on the information you need to know about financial planning. Your financial advisor can help you with books and periodicals you can read. They can also inform you about the use of technology in financial planning. However, you need to know things to ask. Many tools allow you to learn about your risk appetite. Many tools can create a short list of exchange-traded funds, mutual funds or stocks for you to invest. The constitution of your finances depends on your ability to make adjustments according to the prevailing personal and external situation. In an era of information explosion, you cannot hide behind not knowing things. When it comes to your money, you need to be open to the idea of reading about things that are not your domain.

MONEY-WISE

PLANNING TO TAKE A PERSONAL LOAN?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

IT is easy for me to say 'you should not take personal loans, because I have not taken'. It is so foolish to say do not borrow. Most people are borrowing out of compulsion, not love for the bank!!

Nobody borrows if they can live without that expense. However, people do borrow, and when I spoke to a few of the kids who had borrowed and a couple of bankers…here is what I got as the reasons for borrowing (and I am not including a boy who took a personal loan of ₹25,000 for getting a tattoo done – I am happy, the tattoo shop owner is a friend!!).

● **For a major repair in their vehicle:** Vehicle meets with an accident (worse, vehicle belongs to the boss!) so Personal Loan goes towards repair costs. This could have been easily avoided by creating a decent size Emergency Fund –so that you could dip into that fund for this 'vehicle emergency'.

● **For a medical emergency:** Actually, it could be any emergency, but three people said medical emergency. The medical emergency could happen to self, friend, parents, sibling, … does not matter. This could have been avoided by having a sensible amount of medical insurance – basic, top-up, and super top-up. Medical insurance is more difficult to understand –be careful when you take medical insurance.

● **To repay more pressing loans:** If they have borrowed from some friend, relative or a money lender who can press them hard, then the bank P L becomes necessary to repay the original loan. Clearly this loan happened because some expense was done without planning for it in advance – could be travel, or something which suddenly popped up!

● **To meet expenses arising out of death:** Some people spend a lot on death related ceremonies and have no clue from where to meet those expenses, so immediately it is a Personal Loan. Sounds odd, but one should have the ability to say "Sorry, but I will not spend on certain events that I do not understand".

● **To buy a luxury item** – could be a plasma tv, a vacation, a family trip to native place…literally anything. This is such a wrong idea. Luxuries should always come from a surplus in the cash flow. Keep alert.

● **For spending on a festival:** Ganesh Chaturthi for one! Or it could be to meet expenses related to marriage, childbirth, …again anything! This need not be in their own house – it could be in a friend's house too! Lots of trust!

I normally do not write about loans…but just read it a couple of times – do you see any need for a loan? I keep getting offered loans ranging from ₹30,000 to ₹3 crore! I just said NO. Learn to control your needs to the amounts that you have.

For things which you know, you do a SIP…for an emergency you insure. Tell me why do these people need to borrow?

Just a little willingness to postpone consumption, medical and life insurance would actually mean, no PL was necessary! Just a point of view…

Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal exits board

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

BINNY Bansal has resigned from ecommerce major Flipkart's board. This comes after about six months of selling his entire stake in the company. He also recently launched his new start-up OppDoor, which is based in Singapore.

In a statement, Bansal said, "I am proud of the Flipkart Group's achievements over the past 16 years. Flipkart is in a robust position, with a strong leadership team and a clear path forward, and with this confidence, I have decided to step aside, knowing the company is in capable hands. I wish the team the best as they continue to transform experiences for customers, and I remain a strong supporter of the business."

He co-founded the e-commerce firm with Sachin Bansal in 2007. Last year, Bansal, who was holding about 1.75% stake in Flipkart, sold his stake to Walmart. In 2018, Walmart paid about $16 billion for a 77% stake in the ecommerce firm.

Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO and Flipkart Board Member said, "We are thankful for Binny's partnership over the past several years, as the Flipkart Group has grown and entered into new businesses."

"His insights and deep expertise of the business have been invaluable to the Board and company. Flipkart is the outcome of a great idea and a lot of hard work, built by teams committed to transforming how India shops. We wish Binny the best as he embarks on his next venture and thank him for the deep impact he has enabled for the Indian retail ecosystem," he added.

Piramal to sell 20% stake in Shriram Invest

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

PIRAMAL Enterprises will sell its entire stake in Shriram Investment Holdings to Shriram Ownership Trust for ₹1,440 crore. In an exchange filing, it said the company has entered into share purchase agreement on Saturday to sell its entire direct investment of 20% of the fully paid-up equity share capital held in Shriram Investment Holdings Private Limited (formerly known as Shriram Investment Holdings Limited) to Shriram Ownership Trust(SOT) for a consideration of ₹ 1,440 crore.

The Transaction is subject to receipt of requisite regulatory approvals by SOT and expected to be completed prior to March 31, 2024. "This Transaction is aligned with our focus on monetizing non-core assets. The proceeds from the Transaction will further strengthen our balance sheet," it added. SOT is the promoter of Shriram Capital Private Limited, which is the overarching holding company of Shriram Group.

Red Sea crisis: No impact on crude supply to India, says HPCL head

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE ongoing attacks on shipping vessels by Houthi militants in the Red Sea have not impacted the flow of crude oil to India but have elevated the price of freight, said Pushp Kumar Joshi, the chairman of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL).

During a post-third quarter earnings call with investors, Joshi attributed the increase in freight costs to the need to reroute shipping vessels via the Cape of Good Hope.

However, he also assured that the company doesn't anticipate any supply disruptions, as HPCL has secured crude oil supplies until mid-April 2024. Joshi explained that the company fulfills 44–45% of its crude oil requirements through term contracts with national oil companies like those in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, while the remainder is sourced from spot purchases or the current market.

"Crude oil supplies have not seen any disruption as of now. This has definitely impacted the freight rates, and freight rates have traveled northward," said Joshi.

Regarding supply, he said that the company is quite confident that its requirements are being met. "We also have to see how this situation unfolds in the next few weeks; based on that, we will have to make a decision. But as far as the procurement side is concerned, I am already in a comfortable situation till March 31 and two weeks into April," he added.

Following a US-led coalition strike on Iran-backed Houthi militants in northern Yemen, shipping companies are avoiding the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait. Due to the rerouting of voyages through the Cape of Good Hope instead of the Suez Canal, shipments from India to the US will take an additional 10–14 days, while shipments from Europe and the Mediterranean will take 20–25 days.

Regarding Russian imports, he mentioned that Russian oil accounted for 30% of all crude oil imported by HPCL in 2023. Meanwhile, HPCL posted a standalone net profit of ₹529 crore in the third quarter of the financial year 2023–24, marking an increase of more than three times compared to the same period last year.

Grow Indigo secures $8 mn investment

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

GROW Indigo has raised over $8 million in a recent funding round with a cumulative capital raise of more than $23 million to date. The round saw interest from investors globally including participation from Indigo Ag, Mahyco and individuals. Grow Indigo is a joint venture between Indigo Ag and Mahyco that was formed in 2018.

Grow Indigo operates the largest carbon farming platform for smallholder farmers in India.

The platform includes four carbon programs across 13 states and cumulatively aim to reduce/ remove emissions by 20MtCO2e annually from agriculture. About 800,000 acres have already been enrolled in the company's programs.

"With sustainability at its core, Grow Indigo has now demonstrated adoption of biological inputs and carbon solutions at scale by farmers," said Usha Barwale Zehr, Executive Chairman of Grow Indigo.

Sri Lanka Cricket suspension lifted

ICC Board on Sunday lifted the suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) with immediate effect. SLC was suspended in November for being breach of its obligations as an ICC member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure there is no government interference in governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka.

Visiting spinners dictate proceedings as India lose Hyderabad Test by 28 runs

Hale & Hartley for England

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Hyderabad

A MEMBER of the travelling Barmy Army played 'Rally 'Round The West Indies' as news started filtering that they had beaten Australia in Brisbane. A few hours later, as the shadows lengthened and artificial light started to replace the dimming natural light, they were creating quite the din in the city of pearls.

Not to be left behind, the locals — 25,000 or so — were cheering every run that was being scored by their boy Mohammed Siraj. They were also imploring Jasprit Bumrah to continue to block. Two of India's lead new-ball bowlers had pushed, prodded and chanced their way to a partnership of 25. They needed 29 more to seal what would have been one of the greatest last-wicket escape acts in the history of the game.

But Siraj, one of the few Indians to come down the track against the visiting spinners on Sunday, was stumped. Tom Hartley, who was offered some words of encouragement after a dispiriting first day of Test cricket (none for 63 in nine overs), had finished with seven wickets across 26.2 largely captivating overs. He found nothing to work with on the first day as Yashasvi Jaiswal prevented him from developing any rhythm.

However, this sport is fickle. Chasing 231 on a wicket that had plenty of variable bounce and turn — even if some of it was slow — Jaiswal was the first to go. On the first day, he was on 39 after 35 balls. But scoreboard pressure is a real thing. He wasn't looking to be proactive enough against the spinners. It allowed Hartley to settle. To be fair to Jaiswal, he was trying to mess with the debutant's line after staying in his crease during his short stay. So he stepped down. But the tall spinner saw him coming and shortened the length. In no man's land, the 22-year-old offered a chance to Ollie Pope at forward short-leg. Two balls later, Shubman Gill went back the way he had come; a tentative neither-here, nor-there prod. It was snaffled by Pope in the same region.

The floodgates had opened. A familiar story was being scripted. Indian batters losing wickets to spin on a challenging surface. Hartley's fif-er was the fourth by a visiting left-arm spinner since Steve O'Keefe (2017; Pune), Ajaz Patel (2021; Mumbai) and Matt Kuhnemann (2023; Indore). Jack Leach (2021; Chennai) and Praveen Jayawickrama (2022; Bengaluru) have picked up four-wicket hauls in this period. Staying in the sub-continent, both Taijul Islam and Shakib Al Hasan picked up four wickets each before Shreyas Iyer and R Ashwin took India home in a chase of 145 in 2022. Either by chance or by design, whenever a visiting left-arm spinner does well in India, it seems to be in a winning cause. This is India's third defeat at home since 2021 and all of the losses have seen significant contributions from them.

Is there a pattern? Coach Rahul Dravid opined that the batters could have played square of the wicket but stopped short of calling it a weakness against any particular spin type. "I think it's pretty good bowling," he said after the match. "The ball is spinning in the fourth innings. I thought we combated it pretty well in the first. When it gets to these kinds of situations, you have to give credit to the bowlers. I think using your feet to the left-hand spinner in these conditions is fraught with risk, probably you have to play a little bit more square of the wicket. Having said that, that's a high risk shot as well... (but) I don't see it as a huge issue. I think when you have a good left-hand spinner who's able to pitch it in line with the stumps, it's going to be a challenge."

A few of the Indian batters tried to counter it but it didn't affect their lines. Rohit Sharma did reverse sweep as did KS Bharat but there was no real conviction. England knew they could keep bowling those kinds of good length deliveries. It was the one big difference between the hosts and the visiting batters.

All of Joe Root, Jack Leach and Hartley were in business on Sunday because they kept bringing the batter forward; they asked the questions which Ashwin and Jadeja usually ask but couldn't in this Test.

The end result? A black swan event. India had never lost a home Test after taking a lead in excess of 100 in 90 years of playing the game.

England clebrate after winning the first Test vs India | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

SCOREBOARD

England 1st Innings 246; India 1st Innings 436; England 2nd Innings (O/N 316/6): Pope b Bumrah 196, Rehan c Bharat b Bumrah 28, Hartley b Ashwin 34, Wood c Bharat b Jadeja 0, Leach n.o 0; **Extras** (B-16, LB-10, NB-6) 32; **Total:** (All out in 102.1 ovs) 420; **FoW:** 7-339, 8-419, 9-420; **Bowling:** Bumrah 16.1-4-41-4, Ashwin 29-4-126-3, Axar 16-2-74-1, Jadeja 34-1-131-2, Siraj 7-1-22-0; **India 2nd Innings:** Sharma lbw Tom Hartley 39, Jaiswal c Pope b Hartley 15 , Gill c Pope b Hartley 0, Rahul lbw Root 22, Axar c&b Hartley 17, Iyer c Root b Leach 13, Jadeja run out (Stokes) 2, Bharat b Hartley 28, Ashwin st Foakes b Hartley 28, Bumrah n.o 6, Siraj st Foakes b Hartley 12; Extras: (b-4, lb-14, w-1, nb-1) 20; **Total:** (All out in in 69.2 ovs) 202; **FoW:** 1-42, 2-42, 3-63, 4-95, 5-107, 6-119, 7-119, 8-176, 177-9; **Bowling:** Root 19-3-41-1, Wood 8-1-15-0, Hartley 26.2-5-62-7, Leach 10-1-33-1, Rehan 6-0-33-0.

Sinner: Grand Slam winner

AGENCIES @ Melbourne

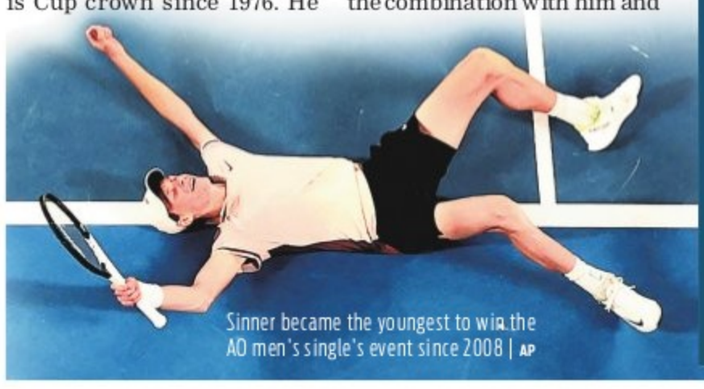
JANNIK Sinner's Australian Open victory is an emphatic statement that he is among the elite group of newcomers finally challenging the established order.

The 22-year-old was ranked a lowly 17th after last year's tournament in Melbourne, where he lost a gruelling five-setter to Stefanos Tsitsipas in the fourth round. But he showed on Sunday he now belongs in the top bracket, coming from two sets down to beat third seed Daniil Medvedev 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in three hours and 44 minutes.

Sinner ended last season with four Tour titles, including his first Masters crown in Toronto, and added gloss by leading Italy to their first Davis Cup crown since 1976. He also reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon and the ATP Finals decider, both times being defeated by world number one Novak Djokovic. But he turned the tables in the semis in Melbourne, recording a momentous victory over the 10-time Australian Open champion to record his third victory over the Serb in four meetings.

One striking aspect of Sinner's performances is his extraordinary air of calm on court. The fourth seed is enjoying life on the road with coaches Darren Cahill and Simone Vagnozzi. "He (Cahill) helped not only me but I think the whole team to believe in ourselves, but also to enjoy, because we travel so much around the world, and to enjoy the time together is really important," said Sinner. "I think the combination with him and also with Simone, it's awesome on the court. I think at the moment we are handling everything in the right way."

A career in professional tennis was not a given for Sinner, who grew up in the German-speaking north of Italy. He was a champion skier as a youngster and still enjoys the sport in the off-season. He was also a keen footballer. Sinner was named the 2019 ATP newcomer of the year but he has struggled to make his mark at the majors, with last year's semi-finals at Wimbledon being his best performance before this year's Australian Open.



Sinner became the youngest to win the AO men's single's event since 2008 | AP

ROAD TO TITLE

- **1st rd:** Botic van de Zandschulp (NED) 6-4, 7-5, 6-3
- **2nd rd:** Jesper de Jong (NED) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2
- **3rd rd:** Sebastian Baez (ARG x26) 6-0, 6-1, 6-3
- **4th rd:** Karen Khachanov (RUS x15) 6-4, 7-5, 6-3
- **QF:** Andrey Rublev (RUS x5) 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3
- **SF:** Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3
- **F:** Daniil Medvedev (RUS x3) 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3

West Indies and the romance of Test cricket

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Hyderabad

ONE of the surest signs of knowing you have witnessed something special on a playground comes from the players themselves. So overcome with emotion, they usually just run wherever their legs take them. No direction. Just sheer elation and joy.

Elation and joy was what plastered on the face of Shamar Joseph, the 24-year-old tearaway who catapulted himself into cricketing folklore after producing a spell for the ages against Australia at The Gabba. The Guyanese pacer, bowling with an injured toe, streaked across the outfield after castling Josh Hazlewood. The last time West Indies had won a Test in Australia, Joseph wasn't even born.

Thousands of miles from Brisbane, Joe Root was performing his own little celebratory run in the Hyderabad outfield. His compatriots all converged on him as the tourists were beginning to sense something special was in the air. Root had got one to pitch on a length around middle and leg before it straightened, beat KL Rahul's defences before it hit him. Rahul decided to send it upstairs but Root knew it out. The hosts had lost half their side and still needed 124. On a wicket with lots of variable bounce (most of it tending towards ankle height) and turn, the tourists knew they were onto something special. As the shadows lengthened and natural light began to dim, a part of India's recent home Test record took another beating. After Tom Hartley picked a seventh wicket of what has been a remarkable debut, England won by 28 runs. There is still time for the edifice to gleam; still time to preserve the status quo of not losing a long-format series at home in the last 11 years. The challenge, now, is to get the players up for the second Test with next to no turnaround time. It begins in Visakhapatnam in five days. **Brief scores:** West Indies 311 & 193 bt Australia 289/9d & 207 in 50.5 ovs (Smith 91 n.o, Joseph 7/68).

West Indies beat Australia in Australia after 27 years on Sunday | AP

Joseph's day out in Oz

Shamar Joseph, the pacer from Guyana, made his Test debut in Adelaide and took a wicket of Steve Smith with his first ball. Following his 5/94, Joseph took, 7/68 in Brisbane, after getting hurt by a toe-crushing yorker while batting. Visitors won their first Test in OZ since 1997 as he won player of the series award.

Vinesh's name listed for Jaipur nationals

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

MULTIPLE World Championship medallist Vinesh Phogat may return to the wrestling mat after a long gap of more than one year as she has found a place in the list of wrestlers scheduled to represent the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) in the upcoming senior national championship scheduled in Jaipur. As per the list, she is the lone RSPB wrestler in 55kg.

Vinesh last competed in the World Championships in September 2022 where she bagged a bronze medal. Vinesh, who was the face of the massive protest the country's top wrestlers launched against former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, was then expected to take part in the Ranking Series in Budapest, Hungary in July 2023 but had to pull out a day before her bout citing fever and food poisoning. She was also given a direct entry for the 2023 Asian Games but she skipped the quadrennial event and underwent knee surgery. "As per the criteria set by the ad-hoc committee running the sport in the country in the absence of the WFI, Vinesh has to compete in the nationals if she wishes to take part in the selection trials scheduled to pick the wrestlers for the Paris Olympics qualifiers. That's why her name is there in the list," a source in the know of things told this daily.

Vinesh along with Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik led the protest that led to suspension of the WFI by the United World Wrestling. However, there is no clarity whether Bajrang, who is also employed with the Indian Railways, will take part in the nationals. "Bajrang competed in the Asian Games so he fulfils the eligibility criteria for the selection trials. Currently, he is in Russia and expected to confirm his participation by Monday," added the source. Sakshi is not expected to compete as she had announced her retirement from the sport after Sanjay Kumar Singh, a close associate of Brij Bhushan, was elected WFI president during the elections held in December 2023. The RSPB organised the selection trials in the women's section on Sunday. The trials to select the men's team is scheduled for Monday.

23 state units sent entries for Pune event?

Notably, two wrestling nationals are scheduled in the country in the coming days. The WFI, which has been abstained from functioning by the sports ministry, is organising the tournament in Pune from January 29 to 31 while the ad-hoc committee is organising the event in Jaipur from February 2 to 5. The WFI on Sunday said that 23 out of 25 affiliated state units have confirmed their participation in its event.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

RANJI TROPHY

TN secure second victory

AGENCIES @ Chennai

SKIPPER Sai Kishore ran through the Chandigarh batting order with a superb five-wicket haul as Tamil Nadu recorded an innings and 293-run win in their Ranji Trophy Group C match.

With Tamil Nadu taking a massive 499-run lead, Chandigarh, who were bowled out for 111 in their first innings, needed a spectacular effort with the bat but it was not to be as they were dismissed for 206 in 71 overs.

At Patna, hosts Bihar were ahead by 88 runs in the second innings with Kerala reaching 62/2. Bihar were bowled out for 377 with the hosts taking an overall lead of 150 runs in the first innings, with Kerala making 227 batting first. Sakibul Gani added 30 more runs to finish at 150 for Bihar.

In Agartala, MB Mura Singh and Rana Datta took three wickets each as Tripura dismissed Karnataka for 151 in their second essay. After being bundled out for 200, Tripura came back stronger to keep Karnataka in check.

Select scores: At Patna: Kerala 227 & 62/2 in 17 ovs (Rohan 37; Ashutosh 1/7) vs Bihar 377 in 113.3 ovs (Sakibul Gani 150; Akhin Sathar 3/50; At Ranchi: Andhra 431 & 150/2d in 20 overs (Karan Shinde 45; Sumit Ruikar 1/11) vs Chhattisgarh 262 in 88.4 overs (Sanjeet Desai 54, Amandeep Khare 54; Prithvi Raj Yarra 3/48) & 20/0 in 6 ovs; In Coimbatore: Chandigarh 111 & 206 all out in 71 ovs (Ankit Kaushik 50 not out; Sai Kishore 5/80) lost to Tamil Nadu 610/4d (Jagadeesan 321, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 105, Baba Indrajith 123; Arpit Pannu 2/96); In Agartala: Karnataka 241 & 151 all out in 51.3 ovs vs Tripura 200 all out in 80.5 ovs & 59/3 in 24 ovs (Sudip Chatterjee 26 n.o; V Vyshak 1/13)

EXPRESS READ

GM Gujrathi takes joint lead

WIJK AAN ZEE (THE NETHERLANDS): Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi took sole lead defeating overnight leader Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan in the 12th and penultimate round of Tata Steel Masters. The Indian is now in a five-way lead going into the last round along side compatriot D Gukesh, Wei Yi of, Anish Giri and Abdusattarov -- all have 7.5 points apiece.

Xavi won't continue at Barca

BARCELONA: Xavi Hern'ndez won't continue as Barcelona's coach after this season, saying he can't get the team out of a slump. Xavi announced his decision on Saturday, minutes after Barcelona lost to Villarreal 5-3 in the Spanish league, leaving it 10 points adrift of leader Real Madrid. "I would like to announce that on June 30 I will cease being the coach of Barca," Xavi said.

India beat USA in U19 World Cup

BLOEMFONTEIN: Arshin Kulkarni slammed a stroke-filled century before pacer Naman Tiwari's grabbed four wickets as India recorded a facile 201-run win over USA in their final group game of the U-19 World Cup here on Sunday. With the win, defending champions India continued their unbeaten run in the tournament. India head to the next stage as leaders of group A.

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

Scrap dealer's son sets natl record

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

BACK pain has been troubling weightlifter Sairaj Pardeshi since the IWLF National Senior, Junior and Youth Championships held in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh from December 28, 2023 to January 8, 2024.

It was pretty evident when he came on the platform for the snatch section here at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Sunday. The 16-year-old lifter from Maharashtra could not lift 124kg in his first and second attempts posing a big threat to his quest for a medal at the ongoing Khelo India Youth Games. Somehow, he managed to lift the weight in his third and last attempt keeping himself in medal contention. Sairaj, the son of a scrap dealer from Manmad, was placed third among 11 lifters in the 81kg weight category after the snatch section got over. What transpired next left everybody spellbound as Sairaj not only climbed to number 1 place after the clean and jerk section but also lifted 162kg in his final attempt to set a youth national record. "After the first failed snatch attempt, I thought I would do it in the next but couldn't. The back pain, that I got during the Itanagar event, was preventing me from lifting the weight," Sairaj told this daily.

Sairaj along with his brother Jairaj started weightlifting watching his elder sister Pooja winning laurels in the sport. It was coach Pravin Vyavahare, a teacher at Chhatre New English School in Manmad, who honed the skills of the Pardeshi siblings. "When Pooja started, she faced resistance from her parents. But once she excelled, it made life easy for Sairaj and Jairaj," Pravin told this daily.

Silver for tea seller's daughter

Meanwhile, Assam lifter Panchami Sonowal clinched silver in the women's 49kg. Her parents — father Luhit Sonowal and mother Budheswari Sonowal — run a small tea stall in Jiadhal Chariali in Dhemaji in Assam.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Table-toppers Maharashtra go past 100 medals

ENS @ Chennai

TABLE-TOPPERS Maharashtra became the first contingent to cross the 100-medal mark 2023 Khelo India Youth Games while Tamil Nadu beat Haryana 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 25-15 to finish the top of the podium in the boys volleyball. The hosts with 77 medals — 29 golds, 18 silver and 30 bronze — are in the second position. Haryana, who are in third place, finished the day with 83 medals.

Meanwhile, Telangana swimmer Vritti Agarwal clinched her third gold with a top finish in the 400m event. Meenakshi Menon of Karnataka (4:37.60s) and Maharashtra's Aditi Hegde (4:39.58s) won the silver and bronze, respectively. In shooting, Maharashtra's Isha Taksale added another gold medal to her tally in the girls 10m Air Rifle event.

Tamil Nadu boys beat Haryana to win gold in Volleyball on Sunday | D SAMPATHKUMAR

Results: Shooting: Girls: 10m Air Rifle: 1. Isha Taksale (Mah) 253.8; 2. Gautami Bhanot (MP) 253; 3. Anushka Thokur (Kar) 231.2; 25m Pistol: 1. Manavi Jain (MP) 36; 2. Harnavdeep Kaur (Pun) 24; 3. Agam Ranjit Kaur (Pun) 20; **Swimming:** Girls: 400m: Vritti Agarwal (Tel) 4:32.77; Meenakshi Menon (Kar) 4:37.60; Aditi Hegde (Mah) 4:39.58; 100m backstroke: Deeksha Sivakumar (TN) 1:07.91s; Pratiksha Dangi (Mah) 1:08.02s; Sri Nitya Sagi (Tel) 1:08.98s; 200m Breaststroke: Pahi Bora (Asm) 2:41.32s; Venika Parikh (Guj) 2:42.90s; Natesan-Shreenitho (TN) 2:43.13; 100m butterfly: Aditi Hegde (Mah) 1:04.78s; Jahnabi Kashyap (Asm) 1:05.12s; Rithik Bangalore (Kar) 1:05.79; 4x100m: Maharashtra 4:08.61s; Tamil Nadu 4:12.34s; **Volleyball:** Girls: Gold Medal: West Bengal bt Rajasthan 23-25, 25-22, 25-13, 25-23; Bronze Medal: Tamil Nadu bt Gujarat 25-21, 25-15, 25-6; Boys: Gold Medal: Tamil Nadu bt Haryana 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 25-15; Bronze Medal: Andhra Pradesh bt Uttar Pradesh 26-24, 25-20, 25-20; **Weightlifting:** Girls: 59kg: Sagun Rav (UP) 175kg; Bhumika Mohite (Mah) 172; B Harika (AP) 166; 64kg: Ankita (Raj) 174kg; C Harshika (Pon) 173kg; Barsha Bor (WB) 171kg; Boys: 81 kg: SairajPardeshi (Mah) 286kg; Hrudanda Das (Odi) 282kg; D Premsagar (AP) 272kg; 89kg: V Ramu (AP) 292kg; Sanidhya Sanjay More (Mah) 291kg; Dheershan J (TN) 286kg; **Wrestling:** Girls: 61kg: 1. Jhanvi (Har); 2. Yashita (Del); 3. BuvaneshwariKoliwad (Kar), Ahilya (Mah); Boys: 55kg GR: 1. Anil Mor (Har); 2. Manu Yadav (Chd); 3. Praveen (Del), AdgondDhareppaBilagi (Kar); 65kg GR: 1. Sagar Singh (Pun); 2. Vaishnav Adkar (Mah); 3. Tukaram Patil (Mah), Ritik (Har); 60kg FS: 1. Ankush (Del); 2. Armanpreet Singh (Pun); 3. Tushar (Har), Suraj Yadav (UP); 71kg FS: 1. Sumit Kumar (Mah); 2. Subham (Del); 3. Vikas (Har), Moni (Har).

LEARN HOW TO LEARN IN 2024
III PART OF THE SERIES

STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME LEARNING OBSTACLES

We all procrastinate, we all have days where we do not go by the routine. Even philosophers like Plato and Socrates talk about this. Personally, I approach my day with discipline. Just as one does not forget about daily activities like brushing or bathing, similarly, if we strive to maintain a schedule, we can gradually ease into it, and it won't feel as challenging anymore. Consistency is challenging to build, but it's essential to make the effort

—**ANUJ PACHHEL,** Productivity YouTubers and medical student

Dealing with hurdles like procrastination and lack of motivation requires students to accept that it is okay to be imperfect. This is not a waste of time, inefficiencies are part of the learning process; the focus should be on minimising them. Taking breaks when needed is crucial. As for procrastination, overcoming it demands determination and a conscious effort to stay motivated, even on less inspired days

Manuj Jindal, UPSC Topper, YouTuber, and TEDx Speaker

Many believe that since I am a speed mathlete I didn't face any challenges while studying for exams. But like any other child, I too had my fair share of distractions during my studies. Mathematicians are inherently lazy and I was no different. Breaking down goals into smaller portions really helped me to overcome procrastination

Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash, acclaimed as World's Fastest Human Calculator

PROCRASTINATION STATISTICS

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON SPENDS **218 MINUTES** A DAY PROCRASTINATING

- **21%** PROCRASTINATE DAILY
- **14%** RARELY PROCRASTINATE
- **80-95%** OF STUDENTS PROCRASTINATE
- **75%** OF STUDENTS CONSIDER INTERNET A MAJOR DISTRACTION
- **95%** ADMIT TO PROCRASTINATING AT LEAST SOMETIMES
- **2 OUT OF 10** ARE CHRONIC PROCRASTINATORS

IN our previous editions, we delved into the realm of effective learning techniques. We learnt that often, students are familiar with these strategies but fail to implement them for a multitude of reasons. Even when attempted, the outcomes seem to fall short. This prompts a crucial inquiry: What sets apart a top performer from an average scorer or others?

Mrittika Banerjee explores this question by drawing from interviews with experts, toppers, productivity YouTubers and research in the field of cognitive and educational psychology. Let's scrutinise the obstacles learners face in implementing learning strategies and examine how to implement study techniques.

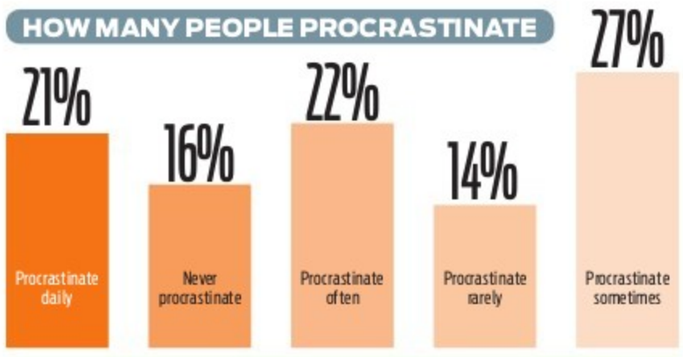
PROCRASTINATION

Procrastination, the art of delaying tasks, is a common challenge that many individuals grapple with, often resulting in a last-minute frenzy or unfinished work. This emotional obstacle can be attributed to various factors such as resistance to change, fear of failure, peer pressure, lack of focus, and the demanding perfectionism that affects certain people.

To dig deeper into the ubiquity of procrastination, a survey conducted by UK-based Micro Biz Mag in January 2020 reveals striking insights. Among the 1,000 participants, a staggering 84% confessed to wrestling with procrastination, while a mere 15.6% claimed to have never faced it. The survey further reveals

Thus, one in every five people is affected by procrastination every day. Additionally, studies have also found the prevalence of procrastination among salaried workers, revealing that a striking 80% procrastinate for one to four hours daily. So, if you find yourself postponing crucial tasks, you are far from alone

HOW MANY PEOPLE PROCRASTINATE



Source: www.goalscalling.com/procrastination-statistics

Procrastination and the Forgetting Curve

Linking procrastination with the Forgetting Curve shows how the two together become a major obstacle in a learner's growth. The Forgetting Curve, a psychological phenomenon charting the decline of memory retention over time, intersects with procrastination creating a formidable challenge to productivity. Being aware of them can help overcome issues

GETTING OVER PROCRASTINATION

- **Forgive yourself:** Procrastination is a human tendency, embrace it
- **Identify the cause:** Is it external pressures or lack of motivation?
- **Break tasks into smaller steps:** This makes the goal less intimidating, fostering a sense of accomplishment with each completed step
- **Set specific, realistic goals and deadlines:** This provides a roadmap & injects a sense of urgency & structure into your tasks
- **Remove all distractions:** Consider whether your mobile device is necessary and create a dedicated study space. our study sessions, adhering to a carefully crafted schedule
- **Utilise time management tools:** Equip yourself with an arsenal of time management tools, such as timers, to-do lists, and productivity apps. These tools act as guides, keeping you on track
- **The Pomodoro technique:** Leverage the power of focused intervals using techniques like Pomodoro (For example, 25 minutes of concentrated work followed by a short break)
- **Discover Your Peak Productivity Time:** Schedule important tasks during these periods to capitalise on your optimal productivity

ATTENTION

Attention deficiency as an impediment to effective learning is a well-documented phenomenon supported by studies in cognitive psychology and education. Attention span has immense implications on learning outcomes. Short attention spans have been consistently associated with reduced information retention and compromised learning efficacy.

The rise of social media platforms, notably Instagram, and introduction of features like Reels, has introduced a new dimension to the challenge of maintaining attention during learning. The influence of short, visually stimulating content on these platforms has been linked to the development of habits that prioritise brevity and instant gratification over sustained cognitive engagement.

OVERCOMING ATTENTION DEFICIENCY

- **Use evidence-based technique:** As mentioned in the previous edition, short, focused intervals with breaks can help maintain attention. The Pomodoro Technique is the breaking of study sessions into short, focused intervals, usually 25 minutes, followed by a short break. This structured approach can help maintain concentration and focus.
- **Minimise distractions:** Identify and eliminate potential distractions from your study environment. Turn off notifications and create a dedicated study space. Incorporating background music designed to enhance concentration can also be an effective strategy.
- **Enhance engagement through active learning:** Move beyond passive reading by actively engaging with the material through note-taking, summarisation, or teaching concepts to others. These practices consistently correlate with improved comprehension and retention, promoting increased engagement and concentration.
- **Explore mindfulness techniques:** Mindfulness techniques, such as meditation, have demonstrated positive effects on attention and focus. Regular practice can contribute to the development of sustained attention, making it a valuable addition to one's repertoire of attention-enhancing strategies. Start with five minutes and gradually increase the duration over time.

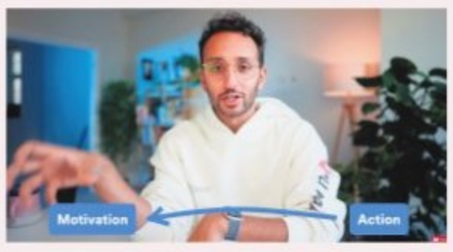
Memory coach john louis identifies barriers that impede learning

1. **Memory glitches:** Information slips away like smoke, thanks to the forgetting curve. Spaced repetition techniques can be game-changers.
2. **Information overload:** Prioritisation, chunking information, and taking breaks are crucial survival skills
3. **Instructional mismatches:** "This just doesn't click!" Learning styles clash with teaching methods, leaving students feeling lost. Different teaching approaches and additional resources can bridge the gap.
4. **Learning environment:** Noisy libraries and flickering screens can make the learning experience a formidable struggle. Numerous productivity experts stress the importance of a conducive learning environment. This involves well-arranged desks, proper equipment, productive gadgets, ergonomic seating, and a peaceful atmosphere

MOTIVATION

Work or motivation: What comes first? Let's find out

Ali Abdaal, the most followed productivity expert with millions of followers hanging on his every word, believes motivation is not a prerequisite for effective learning. In a video referencing Jeff Haden's book, *The Motivation Myth: How High Achievers Really Set Themselves Up to Win*, he dismisses motivation as a myth and advocates for taking action despite the absence of motivation. He emphasises, "Motivation does not lead to action; action leads to motivation", aligning with Haden's perspective that breaking a sweat precedes feeling motivated



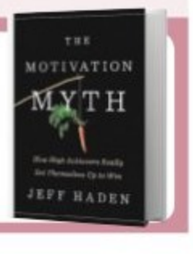
Source: 12 Productivity Myths Wasting Your Time YouTube Video

In tandem with Abdaal's viewpoint, Tina Dabi, the All-India Rank 1 holder in the Union Public Service Commission - Civil Services Exam (UPSC-CSE) 2015, stressed in a topper's talk that motivation must be compelled rather than awaited. She advised aspirants, saying, "You will feel exhausted by the third day and may not retain the same enthusiasm to continue, but you must force yourself to do so. This consistency is a daily requirement."

Both Abdaal and Dabi underline the importance of diving into tasks despite lacking immediate motivational sparks, asserting that motivation can be a by product of action. In conclusion, motivation is short-lived and cannot lead to consistent action, but what can?

JEFF HADEN, AUTHOR

You feel motivated because you took action. Motivation is a result, not a precondition. You don't need motivation to break a sweat. Break a sweat and you'll feel motivated



OVERCOMING LACK OF MOTIVATION

- **Strengthen goal intention:** Define the significance of your studies, considering the broader purpose of your efforts. This clarity enhances commitment
- **Time-based implementation intention:** Creating a timeline for implementing your intentions enhances the likelihood of success. This aligns with the principles advocated by James Clear in his *The New York Times* bestselling book *Atomic Habits*, emphasising the role of specific plans in habit formation and consistent actions
- **SMART goal setting:** In line with Ali Abdaal's recommendation in his productivity video, ensure your goals are measurable, realistic, and time-bound
- **Connect with passion:** Find aspects of your academics that interest you and align them with personal interests or goals to fuel motivation
- **Visualise success:** Visualisation serves as a powerful motivator. An example of this can be observed in the recent movie *12th Fail*, where the character Gauri Bhaiya, a UPSC aspirant, uses the IPS uniform as a visual symbol of success to fuel his determination for his final attempt

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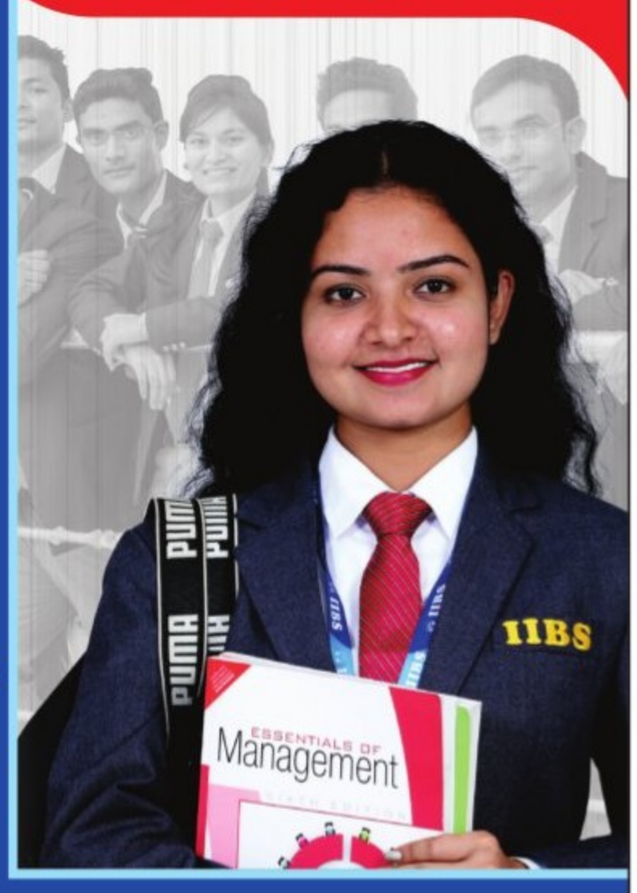

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DAY'S DIARY

First automobile

On this day in 1886, Carl Benz applied for a patent for his gasoline engine vehicle, The Benz Patent Motor Car, powered by a gas engine

THE TRAVEL

Benz's wife Bertha and their two sons embarked on a journey in the history on an August day in 1888. The route took them from Mannheim to Pforzheim, her place of birth

FEATURES

The engine, weighing 100 kilograms, was very light by the standards of the period. The Motor Car with its horsepower changed human mobility forever

WORKING MECHANICS

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Find out the latest in the world of automobiles

PG 3

DESE GOWDA

'THE PAST WEEK HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST IN MY LIFE'

Becoming the oldest player at 43 to win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era and being conferred the Padma Shri, Rohan Bopanna is on a winning streak. Amid milestone moments, Bopanna chats with *CE* about his historic title win

For tennis ace Rohan Bopanna, the last week has been nothing short of a whirlwind. He was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honours. And the 43-year-old clinched the men's doubles title at the Australian Open 2024 with partner Matthew Ebden, becoming the oldest player to ever win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era. And as if these accomplishments were not enough, the Bengalurean also ascended the pinnacle of the ATP Tour doubles rankings today, becoming the oldest first-time world No.1 in the sport's history.

"It's a dream come true. When I was on the court afterwards, thinking about it, there were so many thoughts that were going through my mind; it felt like my mind was going to explode. After years of sacrifice and hard work, this moment feels like so much weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I felt free and I was just lying on the ground when the match point finished. It's a magical feeling. I'm incredibly proud," says Bopanna, adding, "The past week has been one of the best in my life so far."

"It started off with the 500th career win, then being recognised with the Padma Shri, now debuting as the World No.1 and topping it all off with the Grand Slam has been incredible. Never in my career, I would say, have I been so overwhelmed during a tournament, with so much wonderful support and messages," he adds.

The 'Evergreen Bopanna' as he's fondly referred to by fans, says his efficient and calm partnership with Australian Matthew Ebden was also a crucial factor in achieving the historic title. "Our biggest strength is being calm together as a team, no matter what the situation is. We really understand each other's strengths and trust each other as partners. I think it's also about being consistent week in and week out, and Matt, especially after having partnered with so many people across so many years and tournaments, is one of the most consistent partners, in terms of doing well in major events," he adds.

> *After years of sacrifice and hard work, this moment feels like so much weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I felt free and I was just lying on the ground when the match point finished. It's a magical feeling. I'm incredibly proud*
>
> Rohan Bopanna, tennis player

Rohan Bopanna with partner Matthew Ebden at the Australian Open 2024

Meanwhile, Bopanna has already set his eyes on the upcoming 2024 Summer Olympics, which will be held in Paris later this year. But in the meantime, he's focusing on returning home to Bengaluru and enjoying his victory alongside fans and well-wishers. "My immediate plans are to come home to Bengaluru in a couple of days. My next focus would be Dubai [Tennis Championships], Indian Wells [Open], and Miami [Open]. But I have some time before that, to be at home and really savour this moment, with family, friends, and everyone back home. It's a monumental moment for me, something which I've always been dreaing and wanting to get to. So I'm extremely happy that I've achieved this, and looking forward to celebrating properly!" he says.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucity express@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹2,000 from Orah Brew Garden**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Mustard
2) Asado
3) Risalamande

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Sudha S
2) Kumar P
3) Vibha Shree

POOJA DAS

Bonjour ooru!

S.thala, An Indian Suite, a poetic dance adaptation inspired by the renowned French author and director Marguerite Duras' The India Cycle will premiere in the city this weekend

Cinema lovers across the world would either have heard of or obsessively watched the celebrated French classic *Hiroshima Mon Amour*. Written by Marguerite Duras, the film weaves a story of love and romance in the backdrop of devastation and war. French choreographer Annette Leday is bringing a dance adaptation of another corpus of Duras' works with the show S.thala, An Indian Suite to Bengaluru for the first time.

Based on The India Cycle which consists of three novels, *Le Ravissement de Lol V. Stein* (1964), *Le Vice-consul* (1966) and *L'amour* (1971) along with the theatre play, *India Song* (1973), and three films, *La Femme du Gange* (1973), *India Song* (1974) and *Son nom de Venise dans Calcutta desért* (1976), the production is a collaboration with city-based Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Ambassade de France en Inde, Institut Français Inde, and Alliance Française Trivandrum.

"I have a long history of adapting and composing choreographic pieces inspired by different texts from different authors and this time, I wanted to work on French work. What we call the India Cycle is a group of three novels from Marguerite Duras and three films and in those novels and films, she mentions a place that is inspired by India, but it is a sort of fantasised idea that she has created herself. S.thala is the name of a place that she has invented," says Leday who has been working with French and Indian dancers for four decades. Rather than a direct adaptation, the piece is a poetic interpretation of the themes and atmosphere Duras masterfully creates. "The text we most used for this inspiration is called *L'amour* which means love. What inspired me, particularly in this text, is that her way of writing is not linear, it is poetic and when we do choreography, we need this sort of freedom with the characters and spaces," she adds.

In the books and films, the characters travel from one novel to another without a precise narrative but at the same time referring to an initial event that happens during a ballroom dance party. For Leday, the adaptation is about evoking the quality of the relationship between all the characters. "It is an evocation of moments, places, characters and memories," she says. The adaptation has three central female characters, including the protagonist who is in contact with two men, a rejected woman and a beggar. "These were actual people that Marguerite came into contact with when she was a child. The beggar came to her mother's house and Duras was obsessed with this character all through her works," she explains. Leday has incorporated music from Duras' films, primarily composed by Carlos D'Alessio, along with ambient sounds of the sea - a nod to Duras' fascination with seashores. Adding a layer of immersive storytelling, Leday reads short excerpts from Duras' texts in French, accompanied by English translations on screen.

(S.thala will premiere on Feb 3, at Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices. Tickets, priced at ₹399, on BookMyShow)

CITY READ

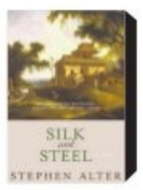
Drive for visually impaired held recently

ITC Windsor & ITC Gardenia, in collaboration with the Federation of Historic Vehicles of India (FHVI), organised the 'Historic Vehicles Drive 2024' recently. Senior IPS officer M A Saleem, Director General of Police (CID) Economic Offences & Special Units, Karnataka, flagged off the event. With the theme 'Wheels to Vision', this year's drive focused on visually-impaired individuals. 30 visually-impaired kids participated, navigating through a specially-designed map. Approximately 100 vehicles, including 65 cars and 35 bikes, drove through Bengaluru's landmarks, such as Vidhana Soudha, MG Road, and Cubbon Park.

ISKCON Bangalore holds 39th annual Ratha Yatra

ISKCON Bangalore marked the start of the year with its 39th annual Ratha Yatra, featuring a grand procession for Sri Krishna Balarama. The event, inaugurated by Karnataka's Minister of Agriculture, N Chaluvaraya Swamy, began at 5pm on Saturday. Madhu Pandit Dasa, ISKCON Bangalore's president, addressed attendees. The procession, starting from ISKCON Bangalore, Rajajinagar, traversed nearby locations, with devotees offering fruits, flowers, and sweets to the deity. The 26-ft tall chariot, blending traditional and modern elements, featured air brakes, a steering wheel, and an electric motor-operated canopy for smooth mobility.

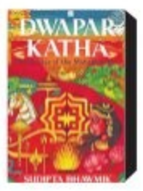
BOOK NOOK



Silk and Steel

By Stephen Alter

In the 19th century India, bandits fight for survival. James Webley, a brave English commander, has joined forces with Colonel Augustine, the son of an Englishwoman and a noble Indian. Together they reject the rigours of mercenary service to pursue a career of pillage.



Dwapar Katha: The Stories of the Mahabharata

By Sudipta Bhawmik

The author delves deep into the intricacies of human nature as he explores the psyches of an eclectic cast of characters, unearthing their motivations and desires. He immerses us in their ceaseless inner struggles on a battlefield more profound than Kurukshetra.

Strangers in Light Coats

By Ghassan Zaqtan

This collection of poems sprout and grow as though compelled, a trance of process in which fable, myth, and elegy take form only to fall apart and reconfigure, each line picked apart by the next and brought into the new body.

The Wandering Life

By Yves Bonnefoy

Interweaving verse and prose — vignettes that range from a few lines in length to several pages — this volume is a capstone to Bonnefoy's oeuvre and appears in English translation for the first time to mark the centenary of Yves Bonnefoy's birth.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Resin Radiance

Join this guided resin art workshop with step-by-step instructions and all materials included. Meet new people, let your creative side thrive, and take home your masterpiece.

WHEN: Jan 29, 5pm **WHERE:** Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Creative Echo

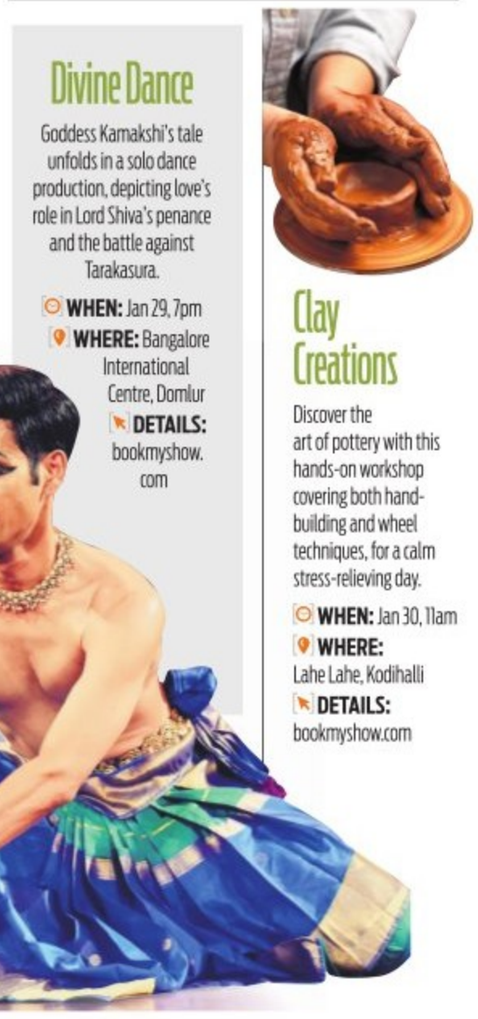
Unleash your creativity as you explore dance, music, poetry, storytelling, drama, DJing, and more with this Art Jam open mic.

WHEN: Jan 30, 7pm
WHERE: Medai - The Stage, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Laugh Fest

Get ready for a standup comedy open mic, where the funniest comedians from the city and across the country experiment with new sets. Enjoy uninterrupted food and beverages during the show.

WHEN: Jan 30, 8pm
WHERE: Millennials Bar & Kitchen, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Soothing Salts

Purify your respiratory system, alleviate stress, improve sleep, and embrace overall well-being with the soothing effects of pure air enriched with salt minerals. Rejuvenate your senses and discover the power of salt cave therapy.

WHEN: Jan 30, 10.30am **WHERE:** Salt World, HSR Layout **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Step Up

Dive into the world of dance with these energetic classes exploring diverse rhythms and styles. Unleash your inner dancer and discover the joy of movement!

WHEN: Jan 29, 11am **WHERE:** LVDS, Indiranagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Divine Dance

Goddess Kamakshi's tale unfolds in a solo dance production, depicting love's role in Lord Shiva's penance and the battle against Tarakasura.

WHEN: Jan 29, 7pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Clay Creations

Discover the art of pottery with this hands-on workshop covering both hand-building and wheel techniques, for a calm stress-relieving day.

WHEN: Jan 30, 11am
WHERE: Lahe Lahe, Kodihalli
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

I'M GAME!

A young girl takes part in a workshop hosted by a child rights organisation for a campaign, 'Hero in You' at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

CROQUE MONSIEUR

Contributed by **Anubhav Mehta,** Delhi

INGREDIENTS

- **White bread:** 3 slices
- **Mustard sauce**
- **Gruyere cheese (grated):** 2 tbsp
- **Butter:** 2 tsp
- **Salt and pepper**
- **Ham:** 2 slices

METHOD

- Spread mustard sauce on one side of the bread slices.
- Place ham on two slices, sprinkle some cheese, salt and pepper over them.
- Now, put the ham-cheese bread slices over one another, and cover them with the third slice.
- Pan fry the sandwich with some butter.
- Serve with any condiment (optional).

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

STANDING SIDE LUNGE POSE HANDS ON HIPS

This is one of the variations of the base pose, Skandasana (Side Lunge Pose). Given its nature, it energises and encourages deep breathing. This is considered a warm-up yoga pose to prepare the body for more intense yoga poses/flows.

STEPS

- Start this pose by sitting in a squat position.
- Exhale, stretch the right leg and place it outwards, in the Standing Side Lunge Pose.
- When you go from right to centre and left to centre, it works on the hips and the knees and slowly opens the energy points in the body.
- You can go in a flow left-centre-right-centre-left-centre-right-centre.
- Do this in 2 rounds of 30 seconds each or more.
- While practising, you can feel the stretch at the hips and the knees.

BENEFITS

- Stretches the arms from the armpits to finger tips, shoulders, muscles of the lower back and abdomen.
- Helps in engaging the calves, quadriceps, hip flexors.
- Ensures the intercostal muscles are active and are efficiently used.
- Encourages deep breathing.
- Beneficial for people with asthma.
- Strengthens the joints of the fingers, wrists, shoulders, hips, knees, and ankles.
- It acts as a foundational practice for seated, prone and supine poses.
- Helps remain stable and balanced.

LIMITATIONS

People who have upper back, neck, arms, or shoulders injury, BP, acute pain in the neck and shoulder, rotator cuff tears, shoulder impingement or instability, or cervical disc herniation, avoid raising arms.

People who have undergone recent shoulder surgery, avoid this.

Those with balance issues, vertigo, or dizziness, take the practice slow. Beginners and seniors can take wall support to maintain balance.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

KHO GAYE HUM KAHAN (Hindi)

Three best friends are juggling with life in Mumbai, where romance, ambition and heartbreak collide with the influence of social media. Will this trio traverse through their respective battles, staying connected?

Cast: Ananya Pandey, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Adarsh Gourav

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SALAAR (Telugu)

The fate of a violently contested kingdom hangs on the fraught bond between two friends-turned-foes in this saga of power, bloodshed and betrayal.

Cast: Prabhas, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruthi Haasan

- **Watch on:** Netflix

PARKING (Tamil)

A clash over a shared parking space transforms two men from diverse backgrounds into enemies. Will ego triumph, or can shared intentions lead to a resolution?

Cast: Harish Kalyan, M S Bhaskar, Indhuja, Rama Rajendra

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

HI NANNA (Telugu)

A six-year-old with cystic fibrosis recruits the help of an enigmatic new friend to convince her single dad to tell her about her mother.

Cast: Nani, Mrunal Thakur, Kiara Khanna

- **Watch on:** Netflix

CUBICLES – SEASON 3 (Hindi, series)

From his wide-eyed rookie days to a hard-earned promotion, work-place politics, friendships, and unexpected twists have peppered Piyush's journey. Will he be able to conquer the challenges that come with his new role as team lead?

Cast: Abhishek Chauhan, Arnav Bhasin, Nidhi Bisht

- **Watch on:** SonyLIV

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

DONO (Hindi)

Dev travels to Thailand to attend his best friend and childhood crush's wedding. He meets Meghna, groom's best friend, and seems to have an instant connection with her. But, will love blossom between the two?

Cast: Rajveer Deol, Paloma Thakeria

- **Watch on:** Netflix

INDIAN POLICE FORCE (Hindi, series)

Chaos erupts as a series of deadly blasts shake Delhi. All eyes are on Delhi Police officer Kabir Malik, who now has the responsibility of catching India's most wanted terrorist.

Cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Shilpa Shetty, Vivek Oberoi

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

GOOD GRIEF (English)

An artist grieving the loss of his famous writer husband takes his two best friends on a trip to Paris, where they unpack messy secrets and hard truths.

Cast: Daniel Levy, Ruth Negga, Luke Evans

- **Watch on:** Netflix

AMERICAN NIGHTMARE (English, series)

After a harrowing home invasion and kidnapping, a couple is accused of staging ordeal when the woman reappears, haunting the couple with tortures.

Cast: Denise Huskins, Aaron Quinn, Henry Lee

- **Watch on:** Netflix

THE SECRETS OF DUMBLEDORE (English)

When Grindelwald threatens to destroy all Muggles, Professor Dumbledore enlists Newt Scamander to lead a squad of wizards and watches to take him down.

Cast: Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Mads Mikkelsen

- **Watch on:** Netflix, Amazon Prime Video

THE BEQUEATHED (Korean, series)

After the death of an unknown uncle, a woman inherits a burial ground and finds herself in the centre of a string of murders and dark secrets.

Cast: Kim Hyun-joo, Park Hee-soon, Park Byung-sun

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION	
Netflix:	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5:	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

BEHOLD THE BEAUTIFUL BEAST

Royal Enfield's latest addition to its Bobber motorcycles is the unyielding Shotgun 650, a machine that boasts both power and performance, all while being ergonomic and fashionable

ANILKUMAR T

POWER. Raw power. That's what this beast is about. The Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 stands as a metaphorical arsenal of strength. From the moment you settle into the saddle and engage the accelerator of this robust 650-powered engine, you'll feel the surge propelling you through the streets, reminiscent of bullets firing from a gun.

The heart of the Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 lies in its 648-cc parallel-twin engine, complying with the BS6 standards. Boasting a power output of 46.39 bhp and a torque of 52.3 Nm, this motorcycle marks the latest addition to the company's lineup of Bobber motorcycles. Sharing its foundation with the Interceptor 650, Continental GT 650, and Super Meteor 650 models, it showcases the prowess of the 650cc platform.

After a week of navigating congested city streets and cruising along expansive highways astride this iconic machine, I can confidently say that Royal Enfield places paramount importance on the engine performance of their motorcycles.

Having previously experienced the stability of the Himalayan 450, I found a similar level of comfort while traversing long highways and navigating bumpy city roads on the Royal Enfield Super Meteor 650. Even at speeds of 120 kmph, the bike's 240 kg weight contributed to commendable stability, mirroring my experiences with the Super Meteor 650.

Designed with a generous turning radius, the Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 effortlessly manoeuvres through zig-zag roads, allowing U-turns without the need for an extensive sweep of the road.

One standout feature is the engine's smoothness, delivering a ride comfort akin to that of four-wheelers. The absence of jerks or rattling sounds makes this high-powered engine a comfortable choice, whether cruising the highway or tackling off-road terrain.

A unique characteristic is the pleasing rumbling noise from the exhaust, comparable to other high-end bikes. The shrugged design is another notable improvement. For someone with a height of 165 cm who struggled to balance the vehicle on the Himalayan, this minor change helps avoid that uneasiness.

However, a notable drawback is the significant heat generated by the engine, becoming unbearable in slow-moving traffic situations. Even bystanders can feel the heat emanating from the machine. While heat is somewhat common in such a high-powered engine, Royal Enfield should address ways to minimise it.

Despite delivering an average mileage of 20-25 on the highway, the fuel gauge meter's performance proved discomforting. At times, the fuel indicator on the meter blinked even after filling the 13-litre fuel tank, causing uncertainty for the rider.

The Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 seamlessly blends retro-futuristic design with modern features. An LED headlamp nestled in a stunning custom, neo-modern nacelle maintains the neo-retro fusion aesthetic while enhancing visibility.

Featuring a digi-analogue instrument cluster with the Tripper navigation system, the Shotgun 650 provides all the necessary information as you embark on your journey.

The newly launched Royal Enfield Wingman, an in-app feature, keeps you updated on the motorcycle's live location, fuel and engine oil levels, service reminders, and more. Additionally, it includes a USB charging port for on-the-go device charging.

Ergonomically optimised with a mid-set foot position, a low 795 mm seat height, and an intuitive handlebar position, the rider experiences a commanding sense of presence and control. The floating single seat combines retro and modern elements seamlessly.

While bookings for India have commenced, the Shotgun will be available for test rides and deliveries in India from March 2024, starting at a price of ₹3,59,430.

The Royal Enfield Shotgun 650 is poised to redefine the motorcycling landscape, offering riders not just a mode of transportation but a lifestyle.

SPECIFICATIONS

Mileage: 20-25
Displacement: 648cc
Engine type: 4 stroke, air-oil cooled, SOHC engine
Max power: 47.65ps @ 7250rpm
Max torque: 52Nm @ 5250rpm
Front brake: Disc
Rear brake: Disc
Starting: Self-start only
Fuel supply: Fuel injection
Clutch: Slipper clutch
Gear box: 6 speed
Bore: 78mm
Stroke: 67.8mm
Compression ratio: 9.5:1
Emission type: BS6
Headlight: Halogen
Body type: Cafe Racer Bikes

TYRE SIZE

Front: 100/90-18, **Rear:** 130/70-18

Wheel Size:
Front: 457.2 mm, **Rear:** 457.2 mm

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Capable & Commanding

With its sleek design and seamless blending of modern aesthetics with practicality, the all-new Hyundai Creta is certain to leave a lasting impression

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

HYUNDAI Motor India's highly anticipated fourth-generation Creta was officially launched on January 16. Prior to the official launch, I did a test drive of this powerful SUV on the roads of the Jodhpur desert in Rajasthan.

Let's delve into the details, under the hood and beyond.

Bold exteriors

The new Hyundai Creta boasts a bold design tailored for the new-age tech-savvy consumers. Drawing inspiration from the global design language of Hyundai, it exudes a matured Venue look.

The commanding appearance is achieved through new LED positioning lamps, DRLs, a black chrome parametric radiator grille, and quad-beam LED headlamps.

The redesigned rear profile adds a fresh appeal with connected LED tail lamps, a new tailgate, bumpers, a skid plate design, and a sleek aerodynamic spoiler.

The 17-inch redesigned sharper and sportier diamond-cut alloy wheels enhance the side profile of this facelifted SUV.

Welcoming interior

The spacious cabin is thoughtfully designed, providing ample room for both passengers and cargo. Quality materials and meticulous attention to detail elevate the overall premium feel.

The driver-centric cockpit features intuitive controls, and the user-friendly infotainment system adds to the convenience. With a wheelbase of 2,610 mm, the second row is roomy enough for three passengers, ensuring a comfortable journey.

The Creta's interiors create a welcoming environment for both short commutes and long journeys, setting it apart in its segment.

1.5L MPi Petrol
6MT: 17.4 km/l
IVT: 17.7 km/l

1.5L U2 CRDi Diesel
6MT: 21.8 km/l
6AT: 19.1 km/l

1.5L Turbo GDi Petrol
7DCT: 18.4 km/l

Powertrains & performance

Hyundai offers five powertrain options, including the new 1.5L Turbo GDi Petrol (7DCT), catering to diverse preferences. Hyundai Creta introduces three drive modes (Eco, Normal, & Sport) and Traction Control Modes (Snow, Sand & Mud), optimising driving comfort across different terrains.

My drive through the sandy lands of Jodhpur left a lasting impression, highlighting the engaging performance of the new turbo powertrain.

The Creta's engine performance is remarkable, providing efficient and responsive options for both fuel efficiency and power. The balanced blend of performance and fuel economy, along with smooth acceleration and responsive handling, makes it suitable for city driving and highway cruising.

Latest technology

The new Hyundai Creta boasts advanced technology focusing on safety and comfort features. The premium 26.03 cm digital cluster features dynamic themes that are switchable with every drive mode.

The 20.03 cm digital cluster displays Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) information, including read-outs for Lane Keep Assist, Adaptive Cruise Control, and Front Collision Avoidance.

Additionally, the digital cluster incorporates a Blind View Monitor, relaying feeds from cameras placed at the Outside Rear View Mirrors (ORVMs).

Variants & prices

The new Hyundai Creta has three engine options, five powertrains, and seven variants.

The newly introduced 1.5 L Turbo GDi Petrol 7DCT (Dual Clutch Transmission) boasts a fuel efficiency of 18.4 km/litre. Prices range from ₹10,99,900 to ₹19,99,900 lakh.

Final word

The all-new Hyundai Creta leaves a lasting impression with its sleek design, seamlessly blending modern aesthetics with practicality.

The spacious and well-appointed interior offers a comfortable driving experience complemented by updated tech features, intuitive infotainment, and advanced safety options. The efficient engine options and responsive handling offer a smooth and enjoyable ride, making the Creta a versatile and capable SUV.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHASHIKANTH NAYAK** Father of **STUTI S NAYAK**, Residing at No.71/A, 7th Cross, 7th Main, Rajiv Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, Karnataka, India, have changed my daughter name from **STUTI S NAYAK** to **STUTI NAYAK**, vide affidavit dated 27/01/2024 sworn before notary B.K.R. Krishnamurthy, Reg No.1351, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HIMMATH KHAN** aged about 59 Years, S/o Late **Hassan Khan** R/at No.87, Suvarna H Block, KSRP Police Qtrs, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560034, hereby declare that my names **HIMAT KHAN BADAMI** and **HIMMATH KHAN** are one and the same and both are belongs to me only in future I will be called as Only **HIMMATH KHAN** vide affidavit dated: 25/1/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAMYA** D/o **Rajendran** aged about 38 years, R/at No.131, 15th Main, Near Water Tank, Kamalangar, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore- 560079, hereby declare that my names **RAMYA** and **RAMYA.R** are one and the same and both are belongs to me only vide affidavit dated: 24/01/2024 Before Notary **Aruna. V** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAKSHITH DINESH**, S/o P.N. Dinesh, age 20 years, R/at No. 494, Mathru Shree Nilaya, 2nd Block Peenya, Bengaluru North, Peenya Small Industries, Bengaluru-560 058 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **D. HEMANTH GOWDA** to **RAKSHITH DINESH**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAKSHITH DINESH** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 27th January 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. MAHESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KARTHIK D SRINIVAS**, Aged 19 Years (DOB 08-08-2005), S/o D.A. Datta Srinivas, R/a No.8 AS, I Cross, II Phase, 6th Block, Nr. Vidyanagar Bus Stand, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-85, have changed my name from **"KARTHIK D. SRINIVAS" to " PRABHAV D. SRINIVAS"** for family and personal reasons and for all purposes from today through an Affidavit dated 26.01.2024 sworn to before Notary, Dr. BKR. Krishnamurthy LLB. Ph.D, Govt of India at Bangalore.
Henceforth I Shall be known by my New Name of **PRABHAV D. SRINIVAS** only.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SYED HUSSAIN**, S/o. Baba Faqruddin, Residing at No. 1408, Bharathmatha Layout, KG Halli, Bengaluru - 560 045, do hereby declare that **SYED HUSSIAN** and **SYED HUSSAIN** both the names are one and the same person.
Now I have changed my name from **SYED HUSSIAN** to **SYED HUSSAIN.**
That in future I will be known by name as **SYED HUSSAIN** for all purposes.
Vide affidavit dated 27.01.2024 sworn to before B.M. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Claiden.K.B, S/o Benoy, Aged about 26 years, residing at No.61, 4th Floor, Sri Sai Nilaya, 22nd Cross, Someshwara layout, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, have changed my name from **Claiden** to **Claiden.K.B @ Claiden Kuzhuppil Benoy,** vide affidavit dated 27/1/2024 sworn to before S.Vijayakumar advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **CHANDAN** (Father) and **SHAMITHA** (Mother) aged about 36 Years, R/at No.26/2, Cossmic, R. R. Layout, Near R.R.College, Chikkabanavara, Medarahalli, Bangalore- 560090, have changed our daughter name from **SONAL.S** to **ARVI SURABHI GOWDA** vide affidavit dated: 25/1/2024 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ILA ALOK MEHTA** R/at Villa 58, Purva Parkridge, Off Outer Ring Road, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru- 560048, have changed my name to **ILA MEHTA** vide affidavit dated: 27/1/2024 Before Notary **Sivakumara.M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DEEPA H.N** W/o **Suresh. S** aged about 36 Years, R/at No.26/2, Cossmic, R. R. Layout, Near R.R.College, Chikkabanavara, Medarahalli, Bangalore- 560090, have changed my name to **SHAMITHA** vide affidavit dated: 25/1/2024 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CHANCHAL BAGMAR** W/o Navaratanmal, residing at No. 114/A, 5th Main Road, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010, Karnataka, India do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **CHANCHAL** to **CHANCHAL BAGMAR,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **CHANCHAL BAGMAR** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 27-01-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.C. GOWTHAMI** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BALAMURI VENKATA RAGHAVENDRA NAIDU**, S/o. B V Rama Rao, Resident of No. 313/2, Ground Floor, 6th D Cross, Behind Green View Hospital, Venkatapura, Koramangala, 1st Block, Bangalore - 560 034, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VENKATARAGHAVENDRA NAIDU** to **BALAMURI VENKATA RAGHAVENDRA NAIDU** vide affidavit dated 26.01.2024 sworn to before B.M. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Geetha Cotter**, D/o. Augustine Rajaratnam, W/o. Desmond Antony Cotter, Residing at 138, 3rd G Block, 3rd Cross, Byrappa Layout, Govindapura, Bengaluru - 560 045, do hereby declare that **GEETHA AUGUSTINE** and **GEETHA COTTER** both the names are one and the same person. Now I have changed my name from **GEETHA AUGUSTINE** to **GEETHA COTTER.**
That in future I will be known by name as **GEETHA COTTER** for all purposes.
Vide affidavit dated 27.01.2024 sworn to before B.M. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PAGADEKALLA HALLY DINESHA,** S/o Sri Krishnegowda, aged about 43 years, Address at Pagadekallahalli (V), Balaghatta(P) Melukote Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya-571431. Now at Residing in Bangalore have changed my name to **DINESH K GOWDA**
Affidavit dated 16.01.2024 sworn before advocate and notary V. Nagarajan, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SURESH.S** S/o **Shivananjaiah**, aged about 41 Years, R/at No.26/2, Cossmic, R.R.Layout, Near R.R.College, Chikkabanavara, Medarahalli, Bangalore- 560090 have changed my name to **CHANDAN** vide affidavit dated: 25/1/2024 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANJUNATH BASVARAJ,** R/at Flat No.104, Infinity Citadel, 4th Cross, Cambridge University Road, Jai Bhuvaneshwari Layout, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036 have changed my name to **MANJUNATH BASAVARAJ RUDRAIAH** vide affidavit dated: 27/1/2024 Before Notary **Sivakumara.M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HITESH .H,** S/o Harikrishnan .M, age 30 years, R/o No. 37, Dickenson Road, Near Commercial Street, Shivajinagar, Bangalore North, Sivan Chetty Gardens, Bangalore-560 042 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **HITHESH .H** to **HITESH .H,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **HITESH .H** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 27th Jan. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. NARAYASWAMY** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SRINATH SUNDAR** S/o Ks Sundaresan, age 22 years, R/at A-202, Purva Belmont Apartment, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560 078 do hereby declare that my name is **SRINATH SUNDER,** henceforth I expressly designate and address me by such given name **SRINATH** and surname **SUNDAR** accordingly, vide affidavit dated 25-01-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. PUTTARAJU** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **MANASA LAKSHMI DEVI KAMMARI**, W/o. Lakshmipathi Malepati, Flat No. 304, Sriven Paradise, 5th Cross, Laxmi Layout, Near Lions Hospital Munnekolala, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560 037, do hereby declare that **MANASA LAKSHMI DEVI KAMMARI, KAMMARI MANASA LAKSHMI DEVI** and **MANASA LAKSHMI DEVI MALEPATI** all the names belongs to me only and one and the same person. I hereby declare that in future I will be continuing my name as **MANASA LAKSHMI DEVI KAMMARI** in all my document and records. Vide affidavit dated 27.01.2024 sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SITARAM T.** Residing at No.111/1A, 5th Main Road, 7th Cross, Chamarajpete, Bengaluru-560018. Have Changed my Name as **T. SEETHARAM** vide affidavit Dated: 25/01/2024 before Notary N.SHANKARA NARAYANA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Service No.15708081Y Rank NK KADIRVEL. V, residing at Ponnankuppam V AND P, Gingee Tq, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu 605201 have changed my son's name from **DEVAKUMAR to K. DEVAKUMAR** (DOB 08.03.2011)
Vide Affidavit No. IN-KA120689058240 81W and dated 27.01.2024 sworn before advocate and notary, Uday Kumar .K, Bangalore

SMART ADS

PURVA BLUE BELLE
Adjacent to Magadi Road Metro Station
(Purple lane) Rajajinagar
3 Bedroom Jodi units
5 Bedroom + Servant room with all Luxurious Amenities.
Direct metro from here to ITPL (white field) / KR PURAM/ BYYAPPANAHALLI .
Very good Convenience those who are working above Areas.
Only few units left for Sale.
Contact : Owner 9844027560

DNR Highline @ Okalipuram
near LULU Mall
Rajajinagar
3 & 4 BHK FLATS
with 7 Star Luxurious Amenities.
Only Few Flats available for Sale. for details
Contact : Owner 9844027560

Vinod Prabhakar to play a hangman in *Maadeva*

CE FEATURES

VINOD Prabhakar is a real-life fighter, as mentioned by *Kaatera* director Tharun Kishore Sudhir, who unveiled the teaser of *Maadeva* at a grand event, in the presence of actors Abishek Ambareesh, Dhanveerrah, Zaid Khan, and others. Wishing the entire team well, Tharun added that the film's presentation is visually appealing, especially with Vinod's bearded look.

Actor Abhishek Ambareesh talked about the fight sequences and screen presence, stating that Vinod is not just a great actor but a bigger person above everything.

Maadeva director Naveen Reddy, speaking to CE on the sidelines of the teaser release, shared an exclusive look and mentioned that **Vinod plays the role of a hangman in the film, with a unique portrayal in *Maadeva*,** describing the character as 'emotionless.' Naveen also made a special mention of senior actor Shruti's role and highlighted that the entire film revolves around Vinod Prabhakar, who will be seen in a rugged avatar. Achyuth Kumar appears in a guest role, in the film featuring Sonal Monteiro as the female lead.

The film, inspired by real events, unfolds in 1965, 1980, and 1999. The shooting took place in various locations, including Kanakapura, Channapatna, Shivamogga, Ramoji Film City, and Hesarghatta. Balakrishna Thota, who has worked with DOP Senthil Kumar, is the cinematographer for the film, with Praddyottan as the music composer. With post-production and a focus on CG, the makers are aiming for a March-end release.

Vinod Prabhakar

'KANNADA AUDIENCES EMBRACE AN ACTOR ONLY WHEN THERE IS A GENUINE CONNECTION'

...says Swathishta Krishnan, as she expresses excitement about her debut in Suni's *Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe*

A SHARADHAA

SWATHISHTA Krishnan, a journalist-turned-actor who started off her journey in Tamil cinema, catapulted into the spotlight with her role in Kamal Haasan's *Vikram*. She is now overjoyed to make her mark in Kannada cinema with Suni's *Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe* alongside Vinay Rajkumar. An elated Swathista reveals, "My heart resonates with Karnataka, as it holds the roots of our generations. Even though I was born and raised in Chennai, my parents and grandparents often delve into discussions about Dr Rajkumar's films. Making a mark in the Kannada film industry was a wish on my checklist, and after *Vikram,* I received numerous offers. Yet, I have a penchant for feel-good and love story films, considering them evergreen and timeless. Aspiring to become a household name, I patiently awaited the right project in Kannada," says the actor ahead of the film's release on February 8.

For Swathishta, collaborating with Suni, a director she holds in high regard for his skillful screenplay writing, was a crucial aspect of her decision-making process. Expressing her thoughts, she shares, "Choosing the right collaborator is pivotal. Having learned about Suni, I consider him one of the best directors, particularly adept at crafting compelling screenplays in Kannada. This conviction made it easy for me to seize the opportunity," she adds.

Getting into her role in *Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe* and portraying Anuraga's character, Swathishta felt a personal connection. "Being a former journalist, the role resonated with me," she muses. "Suni's description of the character aligned with my real-life persona, barring a few cinematic embellishments. Anuraga's nature mirrored mine, allowing me to be authentic on screen. In reality, I am straightforward, and I'm thrilled to portray myself on screen."

Sharing about her co-actor Vinay Rajkumar, Swathishta reveals, "Vinay initially appeared reserved, mirroring my own nature. Moreover, I was determined to ensure fluency in the local language, and consequently, my focus was on dialogue rehearsals rather than engaging in casual chats. Over the course of a 40-day shoot and subsequent travels, we delved into deep conversations. Vinay often discussed the nuances of portraying strong characters and the significance of the story. Our conversations extended to other language films, and all this would mostly happen over a cup of coffee," she says.

Currently, Swathishta is busy shooting for a Tamil project, as she eagerly anticipates her next venture in Kannada. While Chennai remains her home, Swathishta acknowledges the connection that Kannada audiences establish with actors. "I believe Kannada audiences accept an actor only when a genuine heart-to-heart connection is established," she remarks, citing Soundarya, Prema, and Rakshita as exemplary figures with powerful performances. "To endure, I aim to follow their footsteps and remain in the hearts of Kannadigas through impactful roles," she concludes.

Swathishta Krishnan and Vinay Rajkumar

Swathishta Krishnan

Nirupa Bhandari and Saikumar, the duo from *Rangitaranga*, are teaming up again

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NIRUP Bhandari and Saikumar collaborated for *Rangitaranga*, directed by Anup Bhandari in 2015, and the film became globally successful. Now, the duo is set to work together again in an upcoming film directed by Sachin Vaali. Saikumar, known for his notable role as the postmaster and as an antagonist in Rangitaranga, is expected to play a significant role in this yet-to-be-titled project. Although the details of the roles and the title have been kept under wraps by the makers, they plan to unveil them, along with the first look, on February 6.

Currently in the shooting phase, the film explores a captivating fusion of reality and fiction, delving into themes of social connections, humor, and family entertainment. Actors Brinda Acharya and Ankita Amar have joined the cast, and this marks their first time sharing screen space with Nirup Bhandari.

Produced by Ankit Sonigara for Ankket Cinemas and co-produced by Prashant Mulage, Sachin Basrur is in charge of music compositions. Ullas Hydur is overseeing the art direction, and Sandeep Valluri is handling the cinematography.

Just Pass locks release date

The film written and directed by K M Raju, sheds light on the challenges faced by average students

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THE makers of *Just Pass*, have confirmed its release date. The film is all set to hit the theatres on February 9. This college-centric entertainer, produced by KV Shashidhar for Rays Entertainment, stars Shri Mahadev as the lead, with Rangayana Raghu essaying the role of a principal for the first time.

According to writer and director KM Raghu, Just Pass sheds light on the challenges faced by students with passing marks, who struggle to secure admission in colleges, even if they are willing to pay donations. The story revolves around a principled character, who establishes a college exclusively for average students, aiming to educate and motivate them to pass with flying colors. *Just Pass* presents this impactful message in an entertaining manner, offering audiences a delightful cinematic experience. The film not only aims to entertain but also inspire and convey a valuable message about the importance of perseverance and determination in academic pursuits," he says.

The cast also includes Pranathi in the lead role, with Govinde Gowda playing a crucial part in the narrative. *Just Pass* has music scored by Harshavardhan Raj and cinematography by Sujay Kumar.

A still from the film

A still from the film

Arjun Janya composes an English song for PC Shekar's *BAD*

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR PC Shekar, along with composer Arjun Janya, has taken a unique approach to the film's album, *BAD*. They have included an English song, written by Nishan Rai and sung by Aishwarya Rangarajan and Nishan Rai, and the lyrical video is set to be released on February 5.

Director Shekhar explains the decision to use an English song, stating, "I approached Arjun Janya with the idea of creating a song for a particular situation in the film. He asked me to complete the shooting first and then decided to compose a song tailored to fit the situation." The English song is intricately woven into the film's storyline, offering a different approach from the typical Kannada film music.

Nakul Gowda, who gained popularity through Preethiya Raayabhari, takes on the lead role in *BAD*, it features Manvitha Kamath as the female lead. The cast also includes Sai Krishna, Apoorva Bharadwaj, Manjunath, Ashwini, and others in significant roles. "*BAD* will showcase six artists portraying six emotions of the human mind, creating a unique storyline," adds the director.

Arjun Janya and team